

*America, North*

A CONCISE

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF ALL THE

BRITISH COLONIES

IN

North-America,

COMPREHENDING THEIR

Rise, Progress, *and* Modern State;

Particularly of the

MASSACHUSETTS-BAY,

(The Seat of the present Civil War,)

TOGETHER WITH THE

OTHER PROVINCES OF *NEW-ENGLAND*.

To which is annexed, An

ACCURATE DESCRIPTIVE TABLE

OF THE SEVERAL COUNTRIES;

Exhibiting, at One View, their respective

BOUNDARIES,  
DIMENSIONS,  
LONGITUDES,  
LATITUDES,  
DIVISIONS, or  
COUNTIES,  
CHIEF TOWNS,

|| CAPES,  
HARBOURS,  
BAYS,  
RIVERS,  
VARIOUS PRO-  
DUCTIONS,  
ANIMALS, &c. &c.

INTERSPERSED WITH

Particulars relative to the different SOILS and CLIMATES,

CAPITAL CITIES, &c. &c.

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L O N D O N,

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1775.

THE  
MILITARY

BRITISH COLONIES  
P. R. E. A. C. E.

As the British Colonies are now  
the most important part of the  
Empire, it is necessary to have  
a complete and accurate  
knowledge of the  
resources and  
capabilities of each  
of them.



The following is a list of the  
British Colonies, with a brief  
description of each, and the  
names of the Governors and  
the names of the principal  
cities and towns.



P R E F A C E.

AS it is natural to suppose, that among the Public, there are many strangers to British North-American History, who, from the present interesting juncture of affairs, wish for information concerning the rise, establishment, and growth, of our Colonies in that part of the world; to satisfy, therefore, the curiosity of such persons in these particulars, at an easy price, is the design of the following pages, wherein simple matters of fact are related with precision, candour, and impartiality. Observations and reflections are not to be expected in so concise a publication; the reader is left to make his own,

The

## iv P R E F A C E.

~~The~~ history of the province of Massachusetts-bay is, beyond comparison, of more magnitude and importance than that of any of the other colonies; and the reader will find that a large proportion of room has been allotted thereto, and such incidents selected, as, it is presumed, cannot fail of affording him competent ideas of the extraordinary scenes in which the people of that colony have, from their first emigration, been continually interested and engaged.

The manner in which the annexed DESCRIPTIVE TABLE is printed, presents a striking collective and comparative view of the several countries; and, amongst other useful purposes, it may serve for a very proper companion to a Map: It has cost much pains, and, the author hopes, will meet with a favourable reception.



# INTRODUCTION.

## Of the Discovery of AMERICA

*in general.*

**P**REVIOUS to entering on an historical account of the first settlement and present state of the British Colonies in North-America, it seems incumbent on us to take a cursory view of the events which led to the discovery of that part, involved as it was in the discovery of America in general. Herein we shall be as brief as possible, omitting whatever does not appear necessary to perspicuity.

Till the latter end of the fifteenth century, the whole known terrestrial world consisted only of the three great portions, Europe, Asia, and Africa, together with their appendages of islands and adjacent seas. The discovery of the fourth portion is now to be investigated.

B

At

At this period, (viz. the latter end of the 15th century,) Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, having conceived a notion of the possibility of sailing to the Indies (the traffic to which parts was then carried on either through the inland parts of Asia, or thro' Egypt and the Red Sea, and was chiefly engrossed by the Venetians) by a westward course, proposed the making such an attempt to his countrymen, as the means of opening a new avenue to commerce, wealth, and dominion; but his scheme, seeming to them to be founded in absurdity, was consequently rejected. Columbus, conscious of the superiority of his own knowledge in the matter, was not thus to be foiled; and, retiring from his country in disgust, successively repeated his proposal to the courts of France, England, and Portugal; all which, however, looked upon it as too chimerical to be adopted. Notwithstanding these mortifying disappointments, which probably would have overwhelmed the genius of any other person, Columbus was still firmly persuaded of the practicability of his plan, and resolved to propose it to the court of Spain: and here, after a delay of eight years, his design was at length



## AMERICA IN GENERAL. 3

length countenanced by the interest of Queen Isabella, who raised money on her jewels to carry it into execution. Accordingly, in 1492, the adventurous Columbus set sail with three ships. In crossing the Atlantic, his crew, full of apprehensions of danger in a vast unknown ocean, especially from the circumstance of the variation of the compass, which was now first observed, broke out into a mutiny: happily, however, it subsided, when, at the end of thirty-three days, they discovered land, which proved to be the Bahama Islands. These Columbus at first hoped to be a part of the Indies he was in quest of (for, tho' he possibly had an idea of the spherical figure of the earth, he was certainly ignorant of its dimensions, and consequently of the great space still between him and the wished-for country): but soon finding his mistake, he steered to the southward, and fell in with Cuba and Hispaniola; whence he returned to Spain, but not without some samples of gold to be met with in the latter, and gaining a slight knowledge of other islands.

This prosperous voyage procured Columbus, not only the most honourable reception and highest applause, but also a speedy equip-



## 4 AMERICA IN GENERAL.

ment of 17 ships for a second, in which he established a colony at Hispaniola, and discovered Jamaica, Guadaloupe, and many other islands of the West-Indies.

But Columbus soon found that a continuation of success had excited a jealousy among the grandees of Spain, which was very unfavourable to the prosecution of his designs: however, with much difficulty, he was enabled to undertake another expedition, wherein he stood, from the Canaries, for some time, towards the south; then changed his course directly west, suffering grievous heats and heavy rains; but a brisk gale springing up carried him in seventeen days to the Island of Trinidad on the coast of Guiana: which passing, he was soon astonished at the violent agitation of the water, occasioned by the tide of the sea clashing with the rapid current of the river Orinoco; but sailing forward, he first came in sight of that continent, which was afterwards called, in general, *America*, or sometimes, on account of its magnitude, emphatically, **THE NEW WORLD.**

From the first successes of Columbus, all Europe, which resounded with the fame of them, began to think that great man's project

ject was not totally a chimera; and the avarice of Henry VII. of England, who, as we before intimated, declined to engage in such an undertaking when proposed by Columbus, now prompted him to be dabbling in adventurous voyages also. Nevertheless, according to his usual safe policy, he was resolved not to be too venturesome; but granted a patent to John Cabot, a Venetian, and his sons, empowering them, with five ships bearing English colours, to discover and take possession of any countries, either in the east, west, or north, which before that time were unknown to all Christians, reserving to himself a fifth part of the clear emoluments that should arise. This happened in 1496; and, in consequence, the eastern coast in general of America, from latitude 34 deg. N. was soon after discovered, and, for a time, together with the island which still bears the appellation, was called by the English Newfoundland. From the discoveries of the Cabots, therefore, Great Britain derives her claims in America, where, next to Spain, she holds the most considerable possessions.

Lewis, Sebastian, and Sancho.

## 6 AMERICA IN GENERAL.

About 1498, Americus Vespucius, a Florentine, in a voyage from Spain, explored the coasts of Paria, Caracas, &c. to the Gulph of Mexico; and (what is very extraordinary) had the address of appropriating his own name to half the globe, though the honour of the discovery of it is undoubtedly due to Columbus.

In 1500, Alvarez Cabral was driven on the coast of Brazil in a storm, as he was proceeding to the East-Indies by the Cape of Good Hope, which voyage was first compleatly made in 1497. He set up a pillar, with the arms of the King of Portugal on it. But Brazil was soon after more fully discovered by Americus Vespucius above-mentioned, who had quitted the service of Spain in disgust, not thinking himself sufficiently rewarded, and entered into that of Portugal.

The eastern side of the continent being discovered, the Spaniards afterwards made their way to the western, amidst millions of Indians, by slaughter and devastation, which Fernando Cortez began in the conquest of Mexico. Hence they spread themselves over the countries bordering on the South-Sea.

To

To complete our account of the discovery of this New World as far as yet made (for its northernmost parts are still unknown), it only remains to be mentioned; that, about 1520, its southern extremity was first discovered by Magellan, when he sailed through the strait still bearing his name into the South-Sea.

America at large is supposed to contain 14,110,874 square miles, 60 to a degree; which are 3,342,051 more than Asia; 4,456,067 more than Africa; and 9,654,809 more than Europe. It is divided by geographers into North and South, the isthmus of Panama, or Darien, which is about 300 miles long, and 60 broad in its narrowest part, joining the two huge masses, which seem to balance each other. The north portion is at present entirely possessed by the English and Spaniards. The territories belonging to the former constitute the subject of the following pages; those of the latter are called Louisiana, New Mexico, Mexico or New Spain\*, and Cali-

\* Comprehended in New Spain, the English claim and have settlements on part of the Bay of Honduras, and the Mosquito-shore; both which territories are generally



## 3 AMERICA IN GENERAL.

California. In South America the Spaniards possess Terra Firma, Peru, Paraguay or La Plata, (where the Jesuits have been long since established,) Chili, and Terra Magellanica (yet unsettled); the Dutch and French, Guiana; and the Portuguese, Brazil: besides these, there is a large country called Amazonia, but as yet Europeans are very little acquainted with it,

generally considered as annexed to and dependent on Jamaica.

Modern geographers include New Spain and the north part of Terra Firma under the denomination of the West Indies; also Florida, now possessed by the English,

**T**HE eastern coast of North America, in general, as we have already observed, was discovered by the English but for the first knowledge of the Englishman of the interior extended regions beyond and under the denomination of New Britain, they were indeed

**HISTORICAL.**



**HISTORICAL PARTICULARS**

**Rise, Progress, and Present State,**

**OF THE**

**BRITISH COLONIES IN AMERICA,**

**OF NEW-BRITAIN, comprehending LA-  
BRADOR, NEW NORTH WALES, &c.**

**T**HE eastern coast of North-America, in general, as we have already observed, was discovered by the Cabots; but for the first knowledge the English had of the interior extensive regions comprized under the denomination of New-Britain\*, they were indebted

\* See the several parts of this country in the column of *Divisions* in the Table annexed.

to the several adventurers in search of a N.W. passage to China, &c. which project began to be much in agitation in the sixteenth century. Forbisher, Gilbert, Davis, Hudson, Button, Baffin, Munk, Fox, James, Middleton, and, lastly, Moor, have successively embarked in the perilous undertaking,—but in vain; amongst whom, however, he that seems to have made the greatest progress was Hudson, in a voyage performed in the year 1610\*. For that vigorous exertion to serve his country, he deserved a better fate than befel him; of which the present subject leads to a brief recital.

This skilful and determined navigator first entered the straits and bay which to this day bear his name; and explored a great part of the coast; but, though hitherto unsuccessful in seeking the desired passage, he was not hopeless; nor dismayed by the many difficulties he had met with, and determined to persevere in his endeavours the next year. With this view he wintered (it is said) in the latitude of 52 deg. N. which is beyond comparison more rigid in those parts

\* Mr. Hudson had before made three voyages to the N. on discovery, in one of which he penetrated into the latitude of 80½ deg.

than

than with us, owing to the wind blowing for three quarters of the year from the North, over most stupendous high mountains which are continually covered with snow. But when the season proper for prosecuting the discovery arrived, his crew mutinied, and having seized him, together with seven of those who were best affected towards him, set them adrift, in an open boat, in the surrounding furious, icy seas, the dangers of which if they escaped, it was, doubtless, only to perish among savages. His barbarous crew afterwards putting on shore on an island for wild-fowl (their provisions being consumed), four or five of the ringleaders were cut to pieces by the natives; but the rest, with the utmost difficulty, effected their return home.

In 1670, certain persons obtained a charter for the exclusive right of trading to the bay above mentioned. They are commonly called the Hudson's-Bay Company, keep a garrison of 186 men in several forts round the bay, employ four ships and 130 sailors, export annually British commodities to the amount of 16,000*l.* and, by their fur and peltry trade, and fishery, return to the value of 29,340*l.* yielding

yielding to the revenue 375*l*. Inconsiderable as this traffic may appear, its emoluments are very great, as the riches of the Company demonstrate. A revocation of their charter has been suggested as a means of benefiting the nation by a free trade to the Bay; but we apprehend, if any advantage would accrue from such a proceeding, which no doubt the Company would think arbitrary, it is anticipated by the acquisition of Canada, the northern parts of which seem equally convenient for dealing in peltry and furs with the territories allotted to them, and are open to all British traders. There is no other settlement in these countries, owing to their barrenness and inclement climate, and, consequently, they are less known than any part of the British dominions besides, Avarice having here little to feed on.

The inhabitants of Labrador, in general, little removed from a state of nature, are constantly engaged in war, and it is their custom to destroy the aged and decrepid, when they become useless and burthenfome; but with respect to the Esquimaux, in particular, who occupy the northern shore, we are informed by Lieutenant Roger Curtis, who took a  
chart



chart of their coast, by order of Commodore Shuldham, in 1773, that they came indisputably from Greenland, are strangers both to jealousy and contention, and, as he supposes, do not exceed in number 1623. This coast, from the river St. John to Hudson's Straights, was, by the King's proclamation at the conclusion of the last war, in 1763, in order to extend the British fishery to these parts, put under the care and inspection of the Governor of Newfoundland.

## OF CANADA, or THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

THE French, who formerly possessed this country, were originally intruders into it, as it should seem, they were also into Louisiana, their other quondam North-American territory. They had no right to either, but what was derived from treaties. Their pretended claim to Canada was founded on Verronazi's discovery in 1524, which was certainly invalidated by that of the Cabots, made no less than twenty-seven years before. The country of Louisiana was early known to the English, being first discovered and explored by Col. Wood, between the



the years 1654 and 1664; and afterwards visited by Captain Bott, in 1670. Again, in 1698, two ships, fitted out by Dr. Cox, of New Jersey, discovered one of the mouths of the Mississippi, and sailing about a hundred miles up that river, took possession of the country, calling it Carolana. The next year, and not before, the French for the first time set foot on it, from whom it received the name of Louisiana, which it has borne ever since; and, in 1712, the trade of it was granted to M. Crozat.

It may seem somewhat extraordinary, that a people, who could in reality, whatever might be their pretensions, plead no better right to a country than possession, should find means to get themselves established therein by the countenance and authority of treaties, made with another power, which might claim the same country in right of original discovery; but is it not more extraordinary, that a people so circumstanced should not be content with the allowed enjoyment of such possession, but must even be daring enough to foster notions of supplanting that other power in settlements to which its pretensions were indisputable? Yet so it was:—the French,  
having

having once settled themselves on the banks of the rivers St. Laurence and Mississippi, (the only entrances into their American territories, and whose mouths are upwards of 3000 miles asunder) instead of confining themselves to a western extension, in which direction they had the breadth of the whole continent before them, and probably would never have been molested but by the Indians, they bore towards the East, stretched themselves along the back of the British Colonies, and by never missing an opportunity of making encroachments, as well in times of peace as of war, soon manifested in America the same perfidy, jealousy, and ambition, by which their nation had long been characterized in Europe.

The repetition of such aggression was the immediate cause of the last war. In 1750, they seized two-thirds of Nova Scotia, and, in 1752 and 1754, erected forts at Shenigto, Bay-Verte, and at the mouth of St. John's river; in 1752 and 1753, they built two forts on the lake Erie; and, in 1754, they took two English forts in the Ohio country, drove the people out of the back settlements, and, as it were, kept Virginia and the neighbour-  
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ing colonies besieged by a chain of forts they erected to facilitate the execution of their aspiring intention of becoming masters of them. These and many other acts of hostility they committed, before the English, wearied out with fruitless negotiation, resolved to have recourse to arms for redress; In consequence of which a declaration of war took place in 1756.

We have been particular in specifying some of the circumstances which brought on this war, that the reader may observe how conspicuous the hand of justice was in the event of it;—a war that, it is worthy of remark, deprived the French of the very country in which it was by them so wantonly begun, and moreover occasioned their own expulsion out of North-America, instead of effecting that of the English, which was the grand point they aimed to accomplish: for, at the peace, in 1763, they were obliged to suffer the mortification of confirming the victorious Britons, whom they hoped to have driven into the Atlantic, in their then possession of Canada, by an express cession; and, in 1769, they gave up Louisiana, the only territory they had there besides, to the crown of Spain.

Spain.—Such was the exit of those infidious people out of their North-American territories, of which, but for their restless jealousy and aspiring effrontery, they might still have kept peaceable possession, and enriched themselves with its products.

The French had various chimerical ideas respecting the limits of Canada; in general, however, their vanity made them very extensive, comprehending, on the east, part of Nova Scotia, New-England, and New-York, and thence the immense western regions stretching to the Pacific Ocean itself: but, on its becoming subject to the King of Great-Britain, as above-mentioned, certain moderate boundaries were assigned to it (under the denomination of the Government of Quebec) by a proclamation issued on the 7th of October, 1763, for the general regulation of the newly-acquired countries; according to which, its northernmost point was the head of the river St. John on the Labrador Coast; its westernmost, the south end of the Lake Nipissin; its southernmost, the 45th parallel of north latitude, crossing the river St. Laurence and Lake Champlain; and its easternmost, Cape Rosiers, in the Gulph of St. Laurence; the



land included being about eight hundred miles long, and two hundred broad. Nevertheless, in 1774, an act passed for making more effectual provision for the government of this province, of which, on account of the strenuous opposition made to it in Parliament, and the popular declamation it has, and does still create, more or less, throughout the nation, we shall here insert a concise abstract of the several clauses.

The act extends the province southward to the banks of the Ohio, westward to the banks of the Mississippi, and northward to the boundary of the Hudson's-Bay Company.

By the first clause, the proclamation of October 7, 1763, was rendered void May 1, 1775.

By the second, the Romish clergy enjoy the exercise of their religion, subject to the King's supremacy, as established by the first of Queen Elizabeth; and receive their accustomed dues and rights from persons professing the Romish religion; with a proviso added, that his Majesty shall not be disabled from making such provision for the support and maintenance of a Protestant clergy as he shall think fit.

By



By the third clause, all Canadian subjects, except religious orders and communities, hold all their properties, &c. as if the proclamation had not been made; and all controversies relative to property and civil rights are determined by the Canada laws before in being, or such as may be enacted by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Legislative Council; with a proviso, that such persons who have a right to alienate goods, lands, or credits, in their life-time, may bequeath them to whom they will at their death; but this does not extend to lands granted, or that may be granted, by his Majesty in common soccage.

By the fourth clause, the criminal law of England is instituted, subject to such amendments as may be made by the legislative powers now to be mentioned.

By the fifth clause, a legislative authority is appointed, consisting of persons resident there, not less than seventeen, nor more than twenty-three, to be appointed by his Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, under his or their sign manual, to make ordinances for the government of the province, with a prohibition from laying on taxes: and also every ordinance, &c. made, is to be transmitted to

his Majesty, and, if disallowed by his Majesty, every such ordinance, &c. is to cease, upon his Majesty's order in council being promulgated at Quebec : provided likewise, that no ordinance touching religion, or inflicting any greater punishment than fine, or imprisonment for three months, shall be valid, till it receives his Majesty's approbation; and provided also, that no ordinance shall be passed at meeting of council, except between Jan. 1, and May 1, unless upon some urgent occasion, when every member of council resident at Quebec, or within fifty miles thereof, is to be personally summoned by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief in his absence, to attend the same.

By the sixth and last clause, his Majesty and successors may erect any courts, criminal, civil, and ecclesiastical, within the province of Quebec, by letters patent under the Great Seal, whenever his Majesty shall judge necessary.

Of this act we shall only observe in general, that the principles on which it is framed are truly *monarchical*. Particular comments and reflections we shall leave to our readers themselves, some of whom, perhaps, will endeavour to obviate most of the objections

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commonly urged against it, by remarking, that the generality of the people for whose regulation it is calculated, are French, and consequently most in love with that system of government, though the reverse of what the English call *free*, to which they have always been accustomed. As to the policy of extending this province along the back of many of the old British Colonies, with an intent, as is generally imagined, to awe them, in the present bloody contention concerning the right of taxation, into an acquiescence with ministerial terms, the time is even now at hand, which will best shew, how well or ill advisedly the act has been projected in that respect.

The conquest and subsequent cession of this country put the English into the undisturbed possession of its trade, which employs thirty-four ships and 400 seamen; and the exports to Great-Britain, consisting of skins, furs, ginseng, snake-root, capillaire, and wheat, amount to 105,500*l.* annually, which is nearly the value of the English articles sent to Canada in return.

The inhabitants of Canada, exclusive of the Indians, were not estimated, at the commencement of the last war, at more than

45,000; nor can they be supposed to be now much increased, otherwise than by the accession of such English subjects as have settled amongst them since the peace.

## OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

THOUGH this territory undoubtedly belonged to the English by right of discovery, yet not being settled by them, the French usurped it till the year 1613, when they were driven out by Sir Samuel Argal. In 1622, the Scotch begun a settlement here, under Sir William Alexander, who had obtained a grant of the country for that purpose from James I. to whom he was Secretary; and hence it acquired the name of Nova-Scotia, or New-Scotland. In 1630, Sir William, as if endowed with the gift of second sight, sold his property herein to one Claude de la Tour, a French protestant, whom he had permitted to settle at St. John's, and who was to hold it of the crown of Scotland; two years after which the country was impolitically yielded up to the French (who called it L'Acadie) by the treaty of St. Germain en Laye. It was recovered in Oliver Cromwell's time, but again given up by the treaty of Breda; and thus

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it afterwards reverted several times, from the one nation to the other, till it was finally confirmed to the English, in 1713, by the treaty of Utrecht. The French settlers transferred their allegiance, but were allowed the enjoyment of their religion and plantations, and called the Neutral French; though they by no means answered that character, either in the war of 1744, or in the last, in both which they gave their countrymen all the assistance they could in their hostile attempts in those parts.

In 1731, the crown purchased of Aglate de la Tour, a descendant of Claude de la Tour above-mentioned, the whole property of Nova-Scotia, for 2000 guineas. This female had artfully recovered it from the different hands it had fallen into during so many revolutions, and wisely sold it as above. It is, therefore, in a peculiar manner, a royal province.

On the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, the English government, in consequence of the imagined importance of this country, began to make preparation for settling it on a respectable footing. The design was indefatigably pursued by the Earl of Halifax; and

next

next year, 3750 families embarked as a colony, with the Hon. Edward Cornwallis, Esq; at their head, who had been appointed Governor and Commander in Chief; and by them was built the town of Halifax, so called in honour of their chief patron. They were joined by other companies, both from the mother-country and New-York. A vast expence, however, has attended this settlement; within the first seven years the Parliament granted at times for its support, no less a sum than 415,484l. 14s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Prior to the commencement of the last war, the French, whose claims were generally preceded by their taking possession, seized two thirds of this country, and thought to have kept their footing by the subsequent erection of forts; but, in 1755, they were dislodged by Lieutenant Colonel (now General) Monckton.

The British exports to Nova-Scotia consist chiefly of fishing-tackle, rigging for ships, woollen and linen cloth, to the value of about 26,500l. annually; the imports in return are timber, and the produce of the fishery, to the amount of about 38,000l. Hence it should seem, that this colony, which has continued to  
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put Government to a constant expence\*, has been maintained, not for the sake of the mercantile benefits to be derived from itself, which appear so inconsiderable, but with a view of preventing the annoyances to which the other colonies would be exposed, were this in the possession of an enemy.

Charles Laurence, Esq; was appointed the first Lieutenant Governor, and Jonathan Belcher, Esq; Chief Justice, in 1754; the latter of whom still holds his office. The present Governor is Francis Legge, Esq; and Lieutenant Governor, Michael Francklin, Esq;

#### CAPE BRETON.

THIS island was formerly annexed by the French to the government of Nova-Scotia, but they did not give it up with that country to the English at the treaty of Utrecht. In 1745, Admiral Warren, and the Americans under Lieut. Gen. Pepperell, reduced it, but only to be restored at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. During the last war it was again taken, in 1758, by Admiral Boscawen and General Amherst; and, according to the example of its old establishment, was again put under the jurisdiction.

\* The sum voted last session (in April, 1775) for its support was 4346l. 10s. 5d.

jurisdiction of Nova-Scotia, by his Britannic Majesty's proclamation of October 7, 1763, for the better protection of its fishery, which is considerable.

### OF NEW-ENGLAND.

THERE is no certain account, that this extensive territory was actually visited by any European, till Bartholomew Gosnold, an Englishman, sailed hither in the year 1602. He called three of the new-discovered islands by the name of the Elizabeth Islands, and another of them by the name of Martha's Vineyard; and, having trafficked to great advantage with the natives, returned with favourable accounts both of the people and country.

In consequence of this successful voyage, application was made by certain gentlemen and merchants to James I. for a grant of lands in America, similar to that which Sir Walter Raleigh had obtained from Queen Elizabeth\*, but which had been forfeited by his attainder; and, accordingly, in 1606, that King granted all the north continent from 34 to 45 deg.

\* See our account of Virginia.



45 deg. dividing it into two portions ; one of which, extending from 34 to 41 deg. was allotted to persons called the London Company, being principally merchants of that city ; the other, reaching from 38 to 45 deg. was consigned to other persons, chiefly of Devonshire, and called the Plymouth Company : their limits seaward and within land stretched a hundred miles each way ; and they were under the restriction of not settling within that distance one of another. It may here be proper to remark, that, as the name of Virginia had been generally given to all English North America, on Sir Walter Raleigh's first attempt to settle it, so the first of the above-mentioned portions newly granted was called South Virginia, and the other North Virginia ; and their respective companies were sometimes distinguished by the same denominations.

Agreeable to this grant, the Plymouth Company, in 1607, meditated a settlement at Sagadahok ; and about a hundred persons were sent to make the attempt ; but the deaths of several gentlemen concerned in the undertaking, amongst whom was John Popham, Esq; its principal promoter, happening soon after,  
it

it was dropped, and the colonizers returned to England.

Thus foiled, the patentees exerted themselves but feebly afterwards to settle their new territories: nevertheless the English sent ships to the coast, some for the purpose of fishing, others to trade with the natives; and the French, having also found their way hither, and made some advances towards establishing themselves, were routed in 1613.

In 1614, Captains John Smith and Thomas Hunt, in two ships, made the same voyage. The former took a survey of the territory of the Indians called Massachusetts, which on his return he presented to the Prince of Wales (afterwards Charles I.), who gave the country the appellation of New-England, and changed the original name of Massachusetts river into that of Charles. Hunt had been directed to carry the fish to be disposed of in Spain; but, in the execution of this order, his avarice led him to the commission of an action which well nigh ruined the English interest among some of the Indians: he seduced twenty-seven of a tribe called Patuxes on board, and sold them in Spain as slaves; at the rate of twenty pounds a man. For this execrable

## NEW-ENGLAND. 29

execrable treachery he was broke by his owners on coming home; but that made no reparation to the Patuxes in America, who were highly exasperated, and determined on revenge. It does not appear that they had any opportunity of carrying this resolution into execution till the year 1619, when Captain Dormer visiting their coast, and landing, was so furiously set upon by them, that he narrowly escaped with his life, having received no less than fourteen wounds. Perhaps their animosity against the English would have proved irreconcilable, had not one of the Indians, named Squanto, whom Hunt had sold in Spain, luckily made his escape into England, and been brought back by Captain Dormer to his native home, where he gave his countrymen an account of the detestation in which the English held Hunt's villainy, and of his punishment, extolling at the same time the kind treatment which he himself had received:—by which means he gradually pacified them, though too late to prevent their assaulting Captain Dormer.

About 120 years had now passed since the first discovery of North-America, without any other settlement being formed there than  
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the one first set on foot by Sir Walter Raleigh at Virginia (now properly so called), and even that, as it were, was struggling for life. This miscarriage, indeed, is not much to be wondered at, considering the prodigious expence likely to be incurred\*; for the land, being in its natural wild, uncleared state, afforded no immediate conveniencies or subsistence; and the ideas of the advantage deducible from fishing on the coast, and trafficking with the natives in skins and furs, which was all this country offered, were as yet too faint to stimulate to a perseverance in arduous undertakings minds full of the readier way newly taught by the Spaniards of acquiring treasure from the bowels of the earth. Thus, the few attempts which had been made by the Plymouth Company, with the direct view of founding a colony, having failed, the Company itself had insensibly sunk into annihilation; when lo! a most wonderful turn of affairs ensued, and the wished-for period arrived when least expected;—the event, which

\* Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Captain John Mason are said to have spent no less than 20,000*l.* each, in unsuccessful colonizing undertakings.



the motives of interest arising from a new branch of commerce had been too weak to effectuate, was wonderfully brought about by the influence of those of religion.

Certain Brownists\*, who, with one Mr. Robinson at their head, had, about the year 1608, in order to avoid persecution in England, retired to Amsterdam, and next year to Leyden, in Holland, (where they began to dwindle away), solicited, about the year 1617, the South Virginia Company for a tract of their American territory. With this application of the Brownists that Company were so well pleased, that they even addressed the King in their behalf, for a grant under the great seal, setting them entirely at liberty as to matters of religion; but nothing more than a promise of connivance being to be obtained from James, the design was not then carried into

\* The first sect which separated from the church, and so called from one Brown, a young clergyman of fire and zeal over-proportionate to his discretion. It is said, that, though he boasted he had been in every prison in England for religion and conscience sake, yet afterwards cooling, he made a recantation; but he found it much easier to seduce people from the church, than to bring them back again to it.

execution.

execution. In 1619, resolving to venture at all events, they renewed their application; and towards the end of that year a grant passed, under the Company's seal, to John Wincob.

In July, 1620, a part of them arrived at Southampton, where two ships had been previously provided for their accommodation. They attracted the attention of the London merchants, some of whom joined personally, whilst others entrusted them with goods and money by way of adventure. On the 5th of next month they set sail; but one of the ships springing a leak, they were twice obliged to put back, and at last to take their passage in one ship well stowed, which left Plymouth on the 6th of September. They were bound to Hudson's river; but the Dutch having bribed their pilot to carry them more northerly, they arrived in the harbour of Cape Cod on the 11th of November. 'Twas now too late for them to venture to sea again; they, therefore, ranged in a boat along the coast, and having found a commodious situation, they built a town, and gave it the name of New Plymouth, in memory of the last English port they had sailed from.

These

These adventurers amounted to about one hundred; but John Wincob, the above-mentioned grantee, was not among them: however, they could have derived no title from the said grant, as that part of the country to which their pilot had steered them was not within the limits prescribed in it, the claim of the South-Virginia Company extending no higher than to about 20 miles N. of the mouth of Hudson's river. Nevertheless, self-preservation dictated to them the necessity of forming themselves into an association on their arrival at Cape Cod, which they did by an instrument signed by forty-one persons, wherein they declared themselves subjects of the crown of England, and solemnly promised submission to such laws as the good of the colony should render it necessary for the majority to make. Mr. Carver, a gentleman of considerable fortune, which he had embarked in this undertaking, they unanimously appointed their first Governor. Fifty of them died the ensuing winter.

Had the colony been now attacked, they must have fallen an easy prey to the neighbouring Indians; but these savages had already bloody work enough upon their hands,

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being

being engaged in a war with another tribe of the natives called Narragansets; besides which, it is said, they suffered greatly from an epidemical disease, which was very rife among them at this time. These circumstances inclined them to friendship; and Squanto, of whom we before had occasion to speak, prevailed upon the chief Sachem, whose name was Massassoiet, to pay a visit to the colony, which he did in great form the next March, and entered into an alliance with them, acknowledging King James to be his sovereign. Of this Massassoiet, it is pretended, the colony purchased their land.

In April died Mr. Carver, who was succeeded as Governor by Mr. Bradford, formerly a gentleman of Yorkshire.

In the mean time, the spirit of colonizing revived in England, to which probably the adventure of the Brownists not a little contributed; and a new patent was granted, dated Nov. 3, 1620, incorporating adventurers to the northern colony, by the name of the Council for the affairs of New-England, or, as they were commonly called, the Council of Plymouth. This grant included all  
lands



lands between the 40th and 48th degrees of N. latitude, and E. and W. between sea and sea, if not possessed by any Christian state, nor within the limits of the southern colony already mentioned; the quit-rent to be the fifth part of all their gold and silver ore.

Of the above Council of Plymouth a Mr. Weston obtained the first grant of lands on the Massachusetts-bay, and, in 1622, between 50 and 60 persons began a plantation at a place since named Weymouth; but, through their bad conduct, and unneighbourly behaviour towards the Indians, it did not succeed.

The Council made several other trifling grants, but none worthy of mention till 1627, when they sold to six Dorsetshire gentlemen "all lands from three miles northward of any and every part of Merrimack river to three miles southward of any and every part of Charles river, and of Massachusetts-bay, east and west from sea to sea, with all islands on the eastern or western coasts." The six gentlemen who had obtained this grant, having associated to themselves twenty others, Mr. Endicott, an original grantee, was dispatched to

Naumkeak (afterwards by him named Salem) with planters, and furnished with instructions to superintend the affairs of the colony; he was to be assisted also by a kind of council, consisting of some of the other grantees, who went over at the same time.

But now the association discovered, that, though they had a good title to the lands by virtue of their purchase of them from the Plymouth Company, they were, nevertheless, destitute of the powers of government, which could only be conveyed to them by a royal charter. They, therefore, applied to Charles I. who, accordingly, granted them a charter, dated March 24, 1628-9, according to which the corporation was to consist of a Governor, a Deputy-governor, and eighteen Assistants, to be chosen annually out of the freemen. For the first year, the King nominated Matthew Craddock, Governor, and Thomas Goff, Deputy-governor; also the eighteen Assistants. The Governor was empowered to call an assembly at pleasure, and the Governor and Assistants, not less than seven in number might once a month meet to transact business. Four great and general courts or assemblies of the freemen were to be holden annually.

at which the Governor, and at least six of the Assistants, with the representatives of the townships, were to admit freemen, constitute officers, and make laws, *but not repugnant to the statutes of England.* Such were the fundamentals of what is now called the old charter.

The Company being thus encouraged by royal favour, a second embarkation was soon after determined on, which was accompanied by four ministers. They arrived at Salem the 29th of June, where they found about 100 planters, and nine houses. Their own addition made the whole number of settlers about 300, 100 of whom removed to Charlestown, where was one house built; the rest remained at Salem.

The Puritans, now turning their thoughts to spiritual institutions, after a previous enquiry concerning the regulations adopted by the Brownists at New Plymouth, fixed on the 6th of August for the choice and ordination of elders and deacons, when thirty persons entered into a covenant in writing, and two of the above ministers were elected, the one as teacher, the other as pastor, both of them, conjointly with three or four persons of the

graver sort, laying their hands on one another, with solemn prayer. This is called the beginning of the *church*. However, it did not give universal satisfaction. Two gentlemen (Mess. Samuel and John Brown) of Mr. Endicott's council, not approving of this rejection of the church of England, withdrew, with some others of the people who were of the same sentiments, in order to form a separate society; but this was soon crushed by the Governor's sending his two counsellors back to England.

In July 1629, several persons of fortune, disgusted at the proceedings both in church and state at home, proposed a large embarkation, and the transfer of the corporation itself, to America; and, after some deliberation concerning the legality of the measure, it was resolved, "by the general consent of the Company, that the government and patent should be settled in New-England."

In October, 1629, a new Governor, Deputy, and Assistants, were elected, consisting of such persons as were willing to go over with the patent. In the spring of the next year, they embarked, and were followed by other adventurers at different times; so that, before



Before the end of July, eleven ships had arrived in New-England, and by the end of the year six more, having carried thither upwards of 1500 souls.—The Governor, John Winthrop, Esq; had sailed from Yarmouth, in the *Arabella*, on board which, he and other gentlemen signed a paper, wherein they disclaimed any intention of separating from the church of England, and declared their design to be a secession in point of place only, not of doctrine or worship. But are the doctrine and worship of the *Independent* church, which those gentlemen afterwards so zealously maintained in America, the doctrine and worship of the *Church of England*? How gross, then, their dissimulation!

The above general embarkation (who, on landing in New-England, were obliged, for want of provisions, to set all their servants, to the number of 180, at liberty, to shift for themselves, though they had cost them from 16 to 20l. sterling each) spread themselves along the coasts of the Massachusetts-bay, and were the founders of most of the towns now upon it; and among the rest (by direction of the Governor) of the town of

Boston, which has since become the capital of all New-England. As the winter approached, Distress stared them in the face. Before December they lost 200 of their number, through the unhealthiness of the uncleared country, and the want of necessary accommodation, and many more perished by the severity of the winter.

The first Court of Assistants was held on the 23d of August, 1631, at Charlestown, when four of them were appointed justices of the peace, which office, it was ordered, should be also exercised by the Governor and Deputy for the time being. On the 19th of October was held the first General Court, at which every one who was free of the corporation attended personally. It was then determined,

\* Said to be so named from respect to the celebrated Mr. Cotton, minister of Boston, in England, whom they expected to join them; which he afterwards did, and was accordingly ordained teacher of the church of Boston on the 17th of October, 1633.—The peninsula on which this town is seated, was previously occupied by one Mr. Blackstone, a clergyman, who had retired thither from England, because he did not like the *Lords Bishops*; but he was now forced to make a second removal by the *Lords Brethren*, as he called the Puritans, whose tyranny he found much more intolerable.

that,

that, in future, the freemen should elect the Assistants; and the Assistants, from themselves, the Governor and his Deputy; and that the power of making laws, and appointing officers, should be vested in the Court of Assistants; which was inconsistent with their charter. No less than 109 freemen were now admitted, among whom were many who did not belong to any of their churches, which were now increasing apace.

But at the General Court of election, in 1631, notwithstanding the former vote, the freemen themselves resolved to chuse the Governor, Deputy, and Assistants; and ordered that none should thereafter be admitted to the freedom of the body politic, but such as were actually church-members.

In 1631, 1632, and 1633, fresh emigrants embarked for New-England; some with commercial views, and many to avoid the rigour of the ecclesiastical courts; in the last year particularly, ships were sailing thither all summer, 12 or 14 in a month: mean while, dissensions were found to multiply with their numbers; so that, in order to prevent the spreading of the "confusion and distraction already ready grown there," especially in regard to religion,

religion, an order of the King in Council was issued on the 21st of February, 1633, to put a stop to further emigrations during pleasure \*.

At a General Court for elections in 1634, twenty-four of the principal inhabitants appeared as the representatives of the body of freemen; a necessary alteration on account of their great increase, though not warranted by their charter; when, among other similar regulations, it was resolved, "That none but  
" the General Court had power to make and  
" establish laws, or to elect and appoint offi-  
" cers, to raise monies and taxes, or to dis-  
" pose of lands;" and that there should be four General Courts annually. - And this regula-

\* Archbishop Laud is said to have been the adviser of this proclamation, which may be presumed to have proved fatal both to himself and his royal master, if it be true, as is pretended, that Oliver Cromwell, Sir Matthew Boynton, Mr. Hampton, and other staunch and active encouragers of the colonizing Puritans, were thereby prevented from joining them, after being actually on ship-board for that purpose; that ill humour thus recoiling upon the royalists at home, which otherwise would have vented itself abroad. Nevertheless, the national discord then prevailing soon rendered the prohibition of little effect.

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tion of their legislative body, excepting the reduction of their General Courts to two only in one year, continued till the dissolution of their charter.

The colony of Brownists, whom we before mentioned as having seated themselves at New Plymouth, lost fifty of their company the first winter by fevers and scorbutic disorders; nevertheless, they persevered in their settlement with the utmost fortitude, dividing themselves into nineteen households or messes, and for the first two or three years having every thing in common. They were at times joined by new-comers, yet but slowly, their whole number, in 1624, amounting to no more than 180 persons, in 32 households. In this year, being still without any authoritative title to the country they possessed, Mr. Bradford, their Governor, obtained a grant from the new Council of Plymouth, which, afterwards, he generously made over to the freemen in general for their encouragement; and this assignment was confirmed by a new grant from the above-mentioned Council, in January, 1629-30.

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As they increased in numbers, they formed their *churches* after a manner now well known by the term *Independent*, which the first settlers in Massachusetts-bay copied after. For a considerable time, however, their ecclesiastical establishments were but in a tottering condition, no ministers of their own sect having joined them, and, through their want of confidence even in the *Puritan* clergy, the sacerdotal duties being performed by laymen, the chief of whom was Mr. William Brewster, who had formerly been in an honourable employment under William Davison, Esq; Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth, but afterwards had associated himself with Mr. Robinson's congregation of Brownists at Leyden, where he became an elder. He went over with the first embarkation to America; and Mr. Robinson was to have followed with the remainder of the flock; but he died, in 1624, in Holland.

In compliment to the Massachusetts-bay settlers for taking the hint of their *Independent* mode of church establishment from them, the Plymotheans followed the example of the former in their juridical oeconomy, (though

(though, having no charter from the King, they were utterly destitute of any authority for so doing, unless the agreement be thought such which was entered into by them at their first landing at Cape Cod, as already mentioned), and in criminal cases manifested the same intolerance of spirit, which (as will hereafter more fully appear) characterised the Puritans their neighbours, than whom, however, it must in justice be observed, they paid more regard to the common law of their mother-country in civil matters.

The growth of the colony of New Plymouth was by no means so rapid as that of the Massachusetts-bay colony; nevertheless, before the year 1643, they had settled Duxbury, Scituate, Taunton, Rehoboth, Sandwich, Barnstable, Yarmouth, and Eastham.

Amongst the many adventurers we have already mentioned to have transported themselves to America within the years 1631, 1632, and 1633, were, the Rev. Mr. John Elliot, the apostle of the Indians (into whose language he translated the Bible, and several pious works), and three leading Puritan divines, Mr. John Cotton, Mr. Thomas Hooker,

er, and Mr. Samuel Stone. So much wisdom and orthodoxy, one should think, would have restored peace to their religious and civil establishments; but the reverse was the consequence, and the confusion and distraction complained of in the King's proclamation became more and more prevalent. The Puritans, in general, were remarkable for stubbornness of opinion; so that on any controversy arising, each party maintained his own with an enthusiasm scarcely warrantable by infallibility itself; and hence arose persecution, without measure and without end.

In the year 1634, the Rev. Mr. Roger Williams, minister of Salem, was accused of propagating divers heterodox tenets, which it would be tedious to specify; suffice it to say, therefore, that he was declared a schismatic and heretic, and banished from the Massachusetts-bay colony. His devotees, whose sentiments were not affected by those of his accusers and judges, determined to accompany him; whereupon Mr. Williams leading them to the southward, they fixed on a spot and built a town, calling it Providence, and thus became the founders of what is called Providence Plantation. Censurable as he might



might be as a divine, Mr. Williams is said to have made a good civil governor; to have been very instrumental in procuring the charter of Rhode-Island, to which his plantation was thereby annexed; and, by his upright conduct during an abode of forty years in those parts, to have recovered his reputation even among his persecutors.

The settlers in the country bordering on Massachusetts-bay, beginning, by their prodigious increase, to be straitened for want of room, a party of about a hundred persons, with the Rev. Mr. Hooker at their head, set off, in 1635, on foot for the country of Connecticut, of which they had received a very favourable account; and, after a very laborious journey through wildernesses for near a fortnight, arrived on the banks of the Connecticut river, where they built a town to which they gave the name of Hartford; and other companies resorting thither also, laid the foundations of Windsor, Weathersfield, and Springfield. They had taken with them an authority from the colony of Massachusetts-bay to erect a government in Connecticut; but conceiving that they were out of the limits of the Massachusetts jurisdiction, they  
resolved

resolved themselves into a distinct body-politic, yet much upon the plan of the Massachusetts, both as to civil and ecclesiastical affairs, the most remarkable difference between them being their not insisting on membership of their churches as an absolutely necessary qualification to admittance to freedom, or holding offices, amongst them. They chose Edward Hopkins, Esq; their first Governor.

But a settlement in Connecticut had also been planned by the malcontents in England. The Narraganset country is said to have been granted by Charles I. to the Earl of Warwick in 1630, and by him afterwards disposed of to the Lords Say and Seal, Brook, Rich, Sir Nathaniel Rich, and Charles Fiennes, John Pym, and John Hampden, Esqs, &c. who are supposed to have made this purchase with an intent of securing a place of retreat, in case they should fail in the accomplishment of their designs at home. Hence it happened, that in the same year that the first settlers in Connecticut emigrated from Massachusetts-bay, Mr. Winthrop, jun. arrived there from England on the same design, with a number of men, arms, ammunition, stores, &c.

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in money, and other requisites for establishing a colony, of which, by a commission from the above-mentioned nobles and gentlemen, he was appointed Governor; and they accordingly began their settlement by building a fort at the mouth of Connecticut river, which they called Say-brook. Here now appeared a sort of clashing between his design and that of the colonizers from Massachusetts-bay; however, for the sake of union, and the general prosperity, Mr. Winthrop and his company suffered the others to proceed without molestation.

By this time settlements had sprung up in the district of New-Hampshire, and that formerly called the Province of Main, by the vigorous efforts of Capt. John Mason, and Sir Ferdinando Gorges; but which in time were claimed by the Massachusetts colony\*.

\* Several clashing grants of lands between the rivers Merrimack and Sagadahok had passed at different times under the seal of the Council of Plymouth to divers persons, especially to Gorges and Mason, who spared neither pains nor money in their colonizing pursuits. But we need only particularly note, 1. A grant obtained by Mason, in 1629, of the lands between Merrimack and Piscataqua rivers, or the lands which constitute New-Hampshire, and which he had formerly endeavoured, and still continued to endeavour, to settle, at a great expence, but without adequate success; insomuch that, in the year 1633, he seems to have been weary of the undertaking; for, though at a resignation of the Council's patent to Charles I. in that year, this very grant was reserved to Mason, it does not appear that he afterwards exerted himself to compleat his settlement.—  
2. A patent granted in 1639 to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, with powers of jurisdiction, of the lands between the rivers Piscataqua and Kennebec, by the name of the Province of Main: here he had long be-

As the prosecution of the Puritans increased in the mother-country, they fled to America for shelter, and many added themselves to the colony at Massachusetts-bay in 1635, and among them Henry Vane, Esq; (afterwards Sir Henry,) who was received with great cordiality, and admitted to the freedom of the community. This induced him to lay aside a design he had formed of settling a plantation in Connecticut, and to remain in Massachusetts-bay, of which he was the next year chosen Governor. And now arose a religious dispute, which threatened to involve the colony in a civil war. Mrs. Hutchinson, a fanatic woman, who had formerly lived at

fore bestowed, and was continuing to bestow his money and labour to settle and establish a colony on a respectable footing, when his attention was diverted to the civil war in England, in which he engaged on the side of the royalists.

The Massachusetts, having traced the river Merrimack to its head, or northernmost part, found, that a line drawn eastward from "three miles north" of it, (such was the idea entertained by them of extending their north boundary-line,) would include within their grant the territories of New-Hampshire and Main; and the inhabitants of the former, from their own inability to preserve order amongst themselves, making overtures of submission to the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts-bay, were annexed to that colony in 1641, and allowed the privilege of sending two deputies to the General Court.—Main being in a manner forsaken by Gorges in the civil war, his authority declined, and the people fell into confusion; of which the Massachusetts taking advantage, encouraged the disposition which prevailed in numbers of them to unite with their colony; and next year that province was made a county, subject to the Massachusetts government, by the name of Yorkshire, and had liberty to send deputies to the General Court; the inhabitants being, moreover, allowed the peculiar privilege of becoming freemen on taking the usual oath, without submitting to the condition of church-membership, so rigidly exacted from others.

Alford,



Alford, near Boston, in England, and had gone over to America about the year 1633, observing that the men met frequently at Boston (besides the public stated times), to exercise themselves in religious matters, took it into her head that there ought to be meetings of the women also, which she accordingly assembled at her house, where she enlarged upon the sermons of her admired teacher Mr. Cotton, broached a variety of preposterous notions, and distinguished the churches into two classes, characterizing the one (which she espoused) as *under a covenant of grace*, the other as *under a covenant of works*. Hence high disputes took place among all ranks of people, some countenancing, others condemning her doctrines. The Governor betrayed strong indications in favour of them, whilst they were equally the objects of the Deputy-Governor's (Mr. Winthrop's) opposition: nay, they were occasionally explained with such subtlety, as to cause a difference of sentiments among the ministry themselves. On this occasion, the Governor, though warmly supported by the people of Boston, lost his popularity in other parts of the country; insomuch that, at the next election, he was supplanted in his of-

ficce by Mr. Winthrop. Mr. Vane, ill brooking this mortifying event, returned to England, where he had no small share in fomenting the troubles that ensued, for which, at length, the ax put an end to his life.

Mrs. Hutchinson, regardless of the mischievous tendency of her conduct, persisted in the propagation of her tenets; so that it was found necessary to hold a synod to take cognizance of them; and after a disputation of three weeks continuance, upwards of eighty religious dogmas, which were said to be maintained by some or other of the people, were condemned as erroneous. This determination made way for the interference of the secular power, and accordingly Mrs. Hutchinson was put on her trial, of which the following sentence was the result: "Mrs. Hutchinson, the wife of Mr. William Hutchinson, being convented for traducing the ministers and their ministry in the country, she declared voluntarily her revelations, and that she should be delivered, and the court ruined with their posterity, and thereupon was banished; and in the mean while was committed to Mr. Joseph Weld (of Roxbury) until the court should dispose of her."

One of the most avowed defenders of Mrs. Hutchinson and her doctrines was the Rev. Mr. Wheelwright, who, being also sentenced to banishment, led his followers into New Hampshire, where he founded the town and church of Exeter, removing afterwards to Hampton, and thence to Salisbury. And as the Bostonians, in particular, had discovered an attachment to the same religious principles, sixty of the most forward of them were obliged to surrender up their arms, and a law was passed to punish any person by fine, imprisonment, or banishment, who should traduce any court, or any of their sentences. This occasioned the secession of numbers out of the colony, most of whom, as also Mrs. Hutchinson and her husband, betook themselves to the island of Aquetneck, which Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. William Coddington, and others, jointly purchased of the natives for less than the value of 50*l.* sterling, and changed its name to Rhode-Island\*.

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fugees

\* By the art and influence of his wife, Mr. Hutchinson became chief ruler there; nevertheless, after his death, in 1642, Mrs. Hutchinson, having taken some offence, removed to the Dutch colony beyond New-Haven; and the next year, she and all her family, amounting

fugees here, as elsewhere, resolved themselves by their own, for want of a better authority, into a body politic, allowing liberty of conscience to people of all persuasions; and, through this indulgence, the island soon becoming overstocked with people, some of them purchased, from the colony of New Plymouth, a tract of land on the opposite part of the continent, and there built the town of Warwick.

During the intestine troubles above-mentioned, happened the first fray between the colonists and the Indians; a tribe of whom, called Pequods, inhabiting the Connecticut country, had, as long ago as the year 1634, attacked and murdered Captains Stone and Norton, with all their crew, on their sailing in a small vessel up Connecticut river, and lately had renewed their hostilities from a jealousy of the new settlers in those parts; but the New-Englanders, being joined by the Narraganset Indians, who were at high enmity with the Pequods, in effect extirpated that patriotic tribe, with the loss only of three men killed: many, however, were wounded. ing to 16 persons, were murdered by Indians, excepting one daughter, whom they carried away captive.



In the year 1637, arrived in New-England, Mess. Eaton and Hopkins, two London merchants, and the Rev. Mr. Davenport, formerly minister of a church in Coleman-street, and many other persons of good condition. The most delectable spots of Massachusetts-bay being already occupied, and information having been given those adventurers of a large bay, commodious for trade, to the south-west of Connecticut river, they purchased of the natives all the land lying between that and Hudson's river, and with a number of followers removed thither, and built the town called Newhaven; thus laying the foundation of a flourishing colony, which became known by the denomination of the colony of Newhaven. They also made settlements in Long-Island.—Having no charter, they, as the Connecticut settlers had done before them, took the liberty of forming themselves into an association, to be regulated by laws of their own making, and set Mr. Theophilus Eaton at their head as Governor.—Mr. Hopkins, however, went to Connecticut.

The loss of inhabitants by the emigrations which the late religious frenzy had occasion-

ed from Massachusetts-bay, was compensated, in 1628, by the arrival of 3000 settlers, chiefly Puritans, in 20 ships, from England; where the measure of trouble was then filling apace. 'Tis somewhat remarkable, that a spirit of religious intolerance, which drove them from the one country, should have made room for them in the other.

In the same year happened a violent earthquake in New-England, long recognized as an æra to compute from, by the people.

This year is memorable also for the death of the Rev. Mr. John Harvard, minister of Charlestown, who bequeathed near 800l. towards founding a college; and the colony having previously advanced 400l. towards the same purpose, a building was erected, and, in honour of the greatest contributor to it, called Harvard College\*.

\* It was at first merely an academical free-school (or *schola illustris*), but in 1650 was incorporated by the government of Massachusetts-bay, and the name of the town in which it was situated, was changed from Newton to Cambridge. The corporation consists of a President or Rector, five Fellows, and a Treasurer; and confers the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts. In 1698, another building was added, called Stoughton Hall, from the name of its founder; and a chapel has

also

It cannot but strike the reader, that, as the oppression of the nonconformists in England gave birth to the first settlements in New-England, so a perseverance in that conduct proved the chief, though undesigned, also been erected at the expence of Mts. Holden.—At the head of a list of charitable benefactors to the college stands the family of Hollis. Mr. Thomas Hollis, of London, who died in 1731, founded two professorships, one of divinity, the other of mathematics and natural philosophy, and furnished an apparatus for making experiments. He also contributed largely to the library, which, by other donations, at length consisted of 5 or 6000 volumes, but which, together with the apparatus, and the whole of the college that contained the same, were consumed by fire in January, 1764. Very generous presents have since been made towards a new library, particularly by Mr. Hollis, of Gray's-inn. To a new college, built, in 1763, by the General Court, at an expence of between 4 and 5000l. sterling, has been appropriated the name of Hollis-Hall, in grateful remembrance of the benefactions of this worthy family. The next considerable benefactor seems to have been Thomas Hancock, Esq; late of Boston, deceased, who gave 1000l. sterling towards founding a professorship for the oriental languages; and it must be observed of Mr. *John Hancock*, his executor, that being informed of the testator's intention to have given 500l. more towards the library, he honourably contributed that sum for the same purpose,

means

means of, their astonishing growth. A continued accession of refugees had, within the space of twenty years only, advanced them, in respect of population, to a state of independence: for by the year 1640\*, upwards of 21,200 souls had emigrated thither†, and since that time a greater number of persons have removed from, than to, that country.

Indeed, New-England seems to have been settled in a very critical period. The colonies no sooner arrived at the degree of prosperity just mentioned, than the original great stimulus to resort to them ceased, by the discontent in England ripening into an open rupture between the King and Parliament. Nay, whether from motives of revenge, or from the hopes, in an alteration of state-affairs, of sharing the good things from which

\* The country bordering on the Massachusetts-bay was really over-peopled at that time; for many of the inhabitants of Lynn, in Essex county, had then removed, for want of room, to Long Island, where they built the town of Southampton, and, by advice of the Governor of the Massachusetts-bay colony, erected themselves into a distinct government. The whole island, however, was afterwards annexed to the Province of New York.

† The expence then incurred (that of settling included) was supposed to be not less than 192,000*l*.

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they had been excluded, many of the principal people, both clergy and laity, returned to the mother-country, and joined their now ascendent party. Among them were, Edward Winslow and Edward Hopkins, Esqrs; Mr. George (afterwards Sir George) Downing; and the following Reverends, viz. Mess. William Hook, Samuel Mather, Samuel Eaton, John Knowles, Thomas Allen, John and Benjamin Woodbridge, Robert Peck, ——— Blinman, ——— Saxton, Giles Firmin, Henry Whitfield, Henry Butler, ——— Farmworth, and the famous Hugh Peters:—all or most of whom obtained, under Cromwell's administration, good employments and benefices\*.

The following sketch will give the reader a clear idea of the state of New-England in 1642. There were 50 towns and villages, 46 churches, upwards of 40 ministers houses, a castle, prisons, forts, cartways, causeways, &c. all compleated at the people's own charge. The planters had commodious houses, with gardens, orchards, corn-fields,

\* Several of these clergymen, together with upwards of 2000 others, were deprived of their livings by the Bartholomew act, in 1662.

meadow and pasture ground, fenced in with hedges as in England; the merchants were furnished with warehouses, wharfs, ships, boats, and seamen; and tradesmen with good shops, &c. in short, there was every where an appearance of business.

The colonies of Massachusetts-bay, New-Plymouth, Connecticut, and Newhaven, having now a little leisure for reflection, took into consideration the dangers to which they were liable, as well from European as Indian foes; the Dutch being established on Hudson's river, the French getting footing in the north-east, and the Narraganset Indians beginning to betray symptoms of jealousy and disaffection. On a proposal of the first-mentioned colony, therefore, in 1643, they readily entered into a firm and perpetual confederacy, offensive and defensive, after the manner of the provinces of Holland, styling themselves therein the United Colonies of New-England. The Rhode-Islanders were excluded.

We pass to the next striking occurrence in the history of this country, which was the persecution of the Quakers, who began to propagate their doctrines there in the year

1656. Many of them were fined, imprisoned, and whipped; which proving ineffectual to restrain them, a law was made for cutting off their ears, and perforating their tongues with hot irons; which severities also being inflicted in vain, another law was made subjecting them to banishment, and, in case of return, to death; and imposing heavy fines on all persons who should bring them into the colony, or harbour them in it. Nevertheless, the zeal of the Quakers led them to return almost as fast as they were banished; and, in consequence, William Robinson, of London, merchant, Marmaduke Stevenson, of Yorkshire, husbandman, and Mary Dyer, were actually hung in the year 1659; as was also William Ledea, a foreigner, in 1660. And these persecutions (which were carried on in the Massachusetts-bay and New-Plymouth colonies, but chiefly in the former) did not cease, till they were prohibited by an order received from Charles II. dated Sept. 9, 1661\*.

The

\* The wild enthusiasm which actuated most of these Quakers may be conceived from the following instances. In a paper signed by Stevenson a little before his execution, he says, "That, when he was following his plough,  
" in

The Puritans of New-England, on Cromwell's assuming the exercise of sovereign power, had, as was naturally to be expected, very readily acknowledged his authority; on the other hand, they as prudently submit-

"in the east part of Yorkshire, in Old England, he was  
 "in a sort of rapture, and heard a secret voice in his  
 "conscience, saying, *I have ordained thee a prophet of*  
 "*the nations*; and in obedience to this voice he left his  
 "family and employment, and went first to Barbadoes,  
 "in the year 1658, and from thence to Rhode-Island,  
 "where, as he was visiting the seed, the word of the  
 "Lord came to him, saying, *Go to Boston with thy brother*  
 "*William Robinson* and for yielding obedience to  
 "this command of the Everliving God, and not obey-  
 "ing the commands of men, he suffered."—Robinson  
 left a paper of the like import; and Ledeia told the populace at the gallows, "That he suffered for bearing  
 "his testimony for the Lord against the deceivers and  
 "the deceived."—Deborah Wilson (a sister of *exemplary*  
*life* no doubt) went through the streets of Salem, naked  
 as she was born; for which one of the sect made the following apology: "If the Lord did stir up any of his  
 "daughters to be a sign of the nakedness of others, he  
 "believed it to be a great cross to a modest woman's  
 "spirit, but the Lord must be obeyed."—One Faubord,  
 of Grindleton, was on the point of sacrificing his son,  
 in imitation of the patriarch of old; but the neighbours,  
 hearing the lad cry, broke into the house, and prevented it.

ted



ted to that of Charles II. at the Restoration. In the address of the Massachusetts-bay colony on this occasion, after expressions of their loyalty, endeavours to justify their conduct towards the Quakers, and solicitations for the King's protection of them in the continuance both of their civil and religious liberties, is the following singular passage:—

“ We are not seditious, as to the interests of  
 “ Cæsar; nor schismatical, as to matters of  
 “ religion. We distinguish between churches  
 “ and their impurities. We could not live  
 “ without the public worship of God; nor  
 “ be permitted the public worship, without  
 “ such a yoke of subscription and conformi-  
 “ ty, as we could not consent unto without  
 “ sin. That we might, therefore, enjoy divine  
 “ worship without human mixtures, without  
 “ offence to God, man, and our own con-  
 “ sciences, we, with leave, but not without  
 “ tears, departed from our country, kindred,  
 “ and fathers houses, into this Patmos.” —

The good-natured monarch graciously received this address, and promised the protection requested.

In 1662, Mr. Winthrop carried over a charter for the colony of Connecticut, to which

which was thereby annexed the colony of Newhaven. The people of this district at first refused to submit, alleging that they were without the bounds prescribed; but afterwards they thought proper to change their sentiments, and, of a distinct colony, became a county of Connecticut, as they have ever since remained.—By virtue of this charter, the freeholders annually chuse a Governor, and a certain number of Assistants, who compose the Council, or Upper House of Assembly, and are also the grand ordinary in all testamentary cases. The freeholders also elect, from among themselves, two to represent each town, who form the Lower House. Both Houses, resolving into a grand committee, chuse all civil and military officers, and have the cognizance of matrimonial and other matters.

The people of Rhode-Island, also, obtained this year a charter, incorporating with their own colony that called Providence Plantation. In right of it, they annually elect a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and ten Assistants, of whom consists the Upper House of Assembly. About 70 representatives, chosen half-yearly by the different towns, consti-

into the Lower House. The two Houses, in general assembly, appoint all public officers, whether civil or military, (the Recorder, Treasurer, and Attorney-General, alone excepted, being elected annually by the people); and have the powers of enacting laws, regulating the militia, and transacting all other business of government. They are obliged to sit immediately after every election, in the summer at Newport, and in the winter at Providence and South Kingston in Narraganset alternately. They adjourn themselves, but may be summoned together again by the Governor, on any emergency. The Governor has no negative; he only votes with the Assistants, and has the casting voice in case of an equality.

In 1665, the Anabaptists were charged with "gathering themselves into a pretended church-state, in opposition to the order of the churches in Christ in the colony," &c. The allegation not being denied, they were at first admonished and threatened only; but this not restraining them, such as were freemen were disfranchised, which also being ineffectual, the offenders were imprisoned and banished. But

severity only making profelytes, it was thought adviseable to desist from further prosecutions.

The King, in 1664, commissioned Colonel Nichols and George Cartwright, Esq; in conjunction with Sir Robert Carr and Samuel Maverick, Esq; to reduce the Dutch settled on Hudson's river, to visit the colonies in New-England, hear and determine all matters of complaint, and settle the peace and security of the country.

They arrived at Boston in July; whence, after acquainting the Government with, and imparting a few particulars of, their commission, they proceeded to Hudson's river to execute their orders there, before they entered upon business at Massachusetts-bay. In the mean time, a General Court was called to consider of proper measures to be pursued at this critical period, when the authority and privileges of the government were thought to be invaded. They took several conciliatory steps, one of which was (agreeable to a letter received from Charles II. in 1662), the repeal of the law of 1631 relative to the admission of freemen, in room whereof was substituted another, which allowed orthodox and moral freeholders, rateable at

a cer;



a certain value, to be made freemen, though not members of the church.

The Dutch surrendered on being summoned; Colonel Nichols remaining at New-York, the other three Commissioners returned to Boston, the 15th of February, 1665. As they expected to meet with opposition from the Massachusetts, they thought proper, for example's sake, previously to exert their authority in some of the weaker colonies, and departed the next day for Plymouth, where they were submissively received, and found that almost every thing they had to recommend was already observed. From Plymouth, they went to the Narraganset country, and, holding their court at Warwick, enquired into the titles of lands there, and made divers determinations, which, however, were soon disregarded. They returned again to Boston the latter end of April; and as their conduct seemed to have a strong bias on the side of prerogative rather than privilege, it is not much to be wondered at, that they were looked upon with a distrustful eye. A General Court being met, the business commenced. Our plan will not permit us to enter largely upon it; but the

temper of both parties will appear from the following particulars :

One of the King's instructions to the Commissioners, communicated by them to the court, runs thus :—" That they" (the commissioners) " should not receive any complaints against a magistrate, except for something done against equity, or against the charter ; nor interrupt the course of justice between party and party, except the proceedings should be expressly contrary to the rules prescribed by the charter ; or the matter, in difference, arose from some expression or clause in some grant under the great seal. In those cases, to examine and proceed according to justice."

Upon the subject of this instruction, the Commissioners acquainted the Court, " They had received many complaints from the English of hard measure in several kinds, one more especially, which they offered to communicate, and dared not refuse to examine it, but had so much respect to the authority in the several colonies, that they would leave it to the choice of the Court, whether it should be heard at Providence, in Rhode-Island, or at Boston, either at  
" that

“ that time, or after the Commissioners  
“ returned from the eastward, where they  
“ were going.”—This referred to a criminal  
prosecution against one John Porter, jun. to  
whom they had granted a warrant of protec-  
tion, as it was termed.

The answer returned by the Court was as  
follows: “ That hearing and determining ap-  
“ peals from their judgments is inconsistent  
“ with their charter; nevertheless, as they  
“ desired to be doers of truth and righteous-  
“ ness, and not to shun the light, if the  
“ Commissioners would be pleased to impart  
“ the complaints that had been brought a-  
“ gainst the government, they hoped to be  
“ able to give such answer as should satisfy  
“ his Majesty that their actions had been con-  
“ sonant to reason and equity, and not such as  
“ evil-minded men had represented them.”

To this answer the Commissioners replied,  
“ That they were sorry to find that the Court  
“ put more value upon their own concep-  
“ tions, than the wisdom of the King, in in-  
“ terpreting the charter. The Commission-  
“ ers would reduce all the discourses upon this  
“ head to one question, — Do you acknow-  
“ ledge his Majesty’s Commission, wherein  
“ we are nominated Commissioners, to be of

“ full force to all the purposes therein contained?”

The Court desired to be excused from a direct answer to this question, and chose rather to plead his Majesty's charter, and the special charge the Commissioners had received not to disturb them in the enjoyment of it; adding, that they were ready to give such an account of their proceedings, as that the Commissioners might be able to represent their persons and actions to his Majesty. But the Commissioners insisting on a direct answer, the Court declared, “ That it was enough for them to  
“ give their sense of the powers granted to  
“ them by charter, and that it was beyond  
“ their line to determine the power, intent,  
“ or purpose of his Majesty's Commission.”

Thus the Massachusetts government not submitting to have their own authority superseded, this famous Commission, so far as it respected them, was productive of little more than jarring altercation and disturbance. At length, breaking off further conference, the Commissioners went to New-Hampshire and the Province of Main, where they appointed justices of the peace, exercised divers acts of government, and attempted to detach those colonies from the authority of the Massachu-

sets



sets, to which they had some time since submitted. They failed in New-Hampshire, finding very few towns inclined to countenance the proposal. What temporary success they met with in Main will be seen presently. The Commissioners returning to Boston, some sharp words passed between them and the Court, concerning their proceedings in New-Hampshire and Main. They then repaired to Connecticut, where they had no better success than at Massachusetts-bay: but by the colonies of Plymouth and Rhode-Island they were again submitted to, sitting as a court in the latter, at the towns of Providence and Warwick, scrutinizing into the proceedings of the executive powers, receiving all complaints of the discontented, examining into purchases of lands from the Indians, &c &c. for the space of several months.

Ferdinando Gorges, grandson and heir to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, attempted, in 1664, to recover the Province of Main; and procured a letter to be sent by Charles II. to the Government of the Massachusetts colony, requiring such restitution to be forthwith made, or reason to be shewn for the contrary. The Government, in an humble address, excused them-

selves from a compliance, and assigned reasons for their conduct: nevertheless, Mr. Gorges's claim being countenanced by the Commissioners, the people were encouraged to withdraw from their subjection to the Massachusetts. But, the province becoming a scene of confusion, as might naturally have been expected from so unsettled a state, some of the principal persons made application, in 1688, to the Massachusetts Government to re-assume the jurisdiction over it; and agreeable hereto a declaration was published requiring the inhabitants to yield obedience to the laws of the Massachusetts colony, and to chuse officers within the several towns, as they had done before the late interruption. This declaration had its intended effect, though some opposition was made to it by the persons appointed to act there by the Commissioners.

An execution which happened at Boston, in 1673, is too remarkable to be unnoticed. The crew of a vessel bound from the Straits to London, having entered into a conspiracy, took occasion to quarrel with the master and some of his officers, turned them into the long-boat with a small quantity of provisions, about 100 leagues to the westward of Spain,  
and

and then stood with the ship for New-England. The master and little company, driving before the wind, by a singular providence, made the coast of New-England also, with the loss of one man only; both master and crew, as may well be supposed, were astonished at seeing each others faces there; but the former acquainting the Governor with the above circumstances, the mutineers were seized, and the ringleaders hanged.

The New-England Colonies, whether it was owing to their own confederacy, or to the disagreements which prevailed among the sachems or chiefs of the Indians, had met with little opposition or annoyance from them since the reduction of the Pequods in the year 1637; but in 1674, a conspiracy was discovered to be forming by Metacom, or (according to an assumed English name) Philip, son and successor of Massasoiet, whom we mentioned as entering into an alliance with the colony of New Plymouth on their first arrival. Philip, conceiving himself and other sachems (perhaps with reason) to be servilely treated by the encroaching colonizers, secretly invited his countrymen to a general insurrection, as the only means of recovering their  
expiring

expiring liberties. Of this the Government of Plymouth were apprized by one Saufaman, who had embraced Christianity, and was employed by the English as a missionary among the natives. Saufaman fell a sacrifice to the resentment of the natives on account of this discovery; for falling into the hands of a party of them as he was crossing a frozen pond, they murdered him, and cutting a hole plunged his body under the ice, leaving his hat and gun at top, that it might be thought he had fallen in accidentally. This artifice, it is said, in some measure succeeded, the body, when found, being interred without suspicion of violence: but doubts arising in the mind of the Governor, he ordered it to be taken up and examined, when the neck was found to be broken, the head swollen, and several other parts shockingly bruised; in consequence of which, in 1675, three suspected Indians (one of them, named Tobias, being, it seems, of Philip's council) were seized, adjudged guilty\*, and hanged.

\* The credulous Dr. Mather says, that the first intimation of the identity of the murderers, proceeded from the circumstance of the bleeding of the corps, on being touched by Tobias.

This



This execution, no doubt, much chagrined Philip, and hurried him to the immediate commencement of hostilities by plundering some plantations near his palace at Mount Hope, and murdering eight or nine persons at Swansey. But a body of men from Massachusetts-bay immediately joining the Plymouth forces, agreeable to the stipulation of the Confederacy, King Philip quitted Mount Hope, and retired to the Pocasset Indians on the sea-coast; whereupon the English marched into the country of the Narragansets, whose friendship they had reason to suspect, and compelled them to sign a treaty, obliging themselves to take an active part against Philip, and offering rewards for his apprehension. They then pursued this warrior into the Pocasset country, and, on July 18, attacked, and would most probably have taken him in a swamp, had not night obliged them to desist. It was afterwards judged most prudent to starve him into a surrender, by placing guards round the swamp.

In the mean time, the Indians in other parts of New-England had followed Philip's hostile example. On the 14th of July, the Nipmucks killed four persons at Mendon, in the

the Massachusetts colony: nevertheless, that government, with a view of reclaiming them, dispatched Captain Hutchinson, at the head of about 20 horsemen, to Brookfield, the inhabitants of which place had great hopes of a good issue attending a treaty which the Indians had promised to hold at a certain place on the 2d of August. A few of the principal people, therefore, accompanied Captain Hutchinson to the spot appointed; where finding none of the Indians, it was agreed to proceed to their chief town. But, when they had travelled about four or five miles, the insidious Indians fired\* upon them from an ambush, killed eight on the spot, and mortally wounded three more, among whom was the Captain himself. However, the survivors escaped to Brookfield, where the inhabitants were obliged to run together into one large house, to avoid the fury of the Indians, who, following the blow, poured into and burnt the town. To the house where the inhabi-

\* In the war with the Pequods, a part only of that tribe had fire-arms; but they were now come into general use among the Indians, who had industriously got great numbers into their possession, and rendered themselves good marksmen.

tants had taken refuge, the Indians attempted to set fire several times, but in vain. At length, they filled a cart with hemp and combustibles, which they were thrusting in flames towards it, when (most fortunately) a heavy shower of rain still prevented their design. The besieged now receiving a reinforcement under Major Willard, the Indians thought proper to retreat, destroying all the horses and cattle they could meet with, to a swamp 10 or 12 miles off, where on August 5, they were joined by Philip, who had found means to escape from his dangerous situation at Pocasset the latter end of July. His followers had all deserted him but 40 men, and a number of women and children.

Hostilities were commenced about the same time by the Indians upon Connecticut river, near Hadley, Hatfield, and Deerfield; also by those at Penicook and other places on Merrimack river. Skirmishes frequently happened, and generally to the disadvantage of the English. Captain Lothrop, with 80 men, being sent to guard a quantity of corn from Deerfield to Hadley, was attacked by 7 or 800 Indians; he fought them manfully, till only seven or eight of his small corps remained.

Captain

Captain Moseley advanced with his company from Deerfield, but too late to rescue Lothrop. He renewed and continued the engagement for four hours; and, at length, Major Treat coming up to his assistance with about 160 Monhegin Indians, the enemy were put to flight.

Soon afterwards, a body of the Springfield Indians, who had for 40 years lived in the most friendly correspondence with the English, were prevailed upon, by Philip's Indians, to join them in an attempt upon Springfield town. The plot was discovered time enough to save the lives of the inhabitants, but not the town, upwards of 30 houses, besides barns, &c. being burnt down before any forces could be got together. The same Indians, on the 9th of October, made a furious assault upon Hatfield; but the Massachusetts and Connecticut forces being happily at hand, they were repulsed: and finding themselves not likely to succeed in any further attempts in those parts of the country, the generality of them retired amongst the Narragansets.

Indeed, the country of the Indians last mentioned, notwithstanding their late treaty with the English, was now become the gene-

ral



ral rendezvous of Philip's soldiers, and other Indian insurgents; whence it was much feared that the Narragansets intended openly to join them in the spring. Such an event would, in all probability, have proved fatal to the English; it was, therefore, judged prudent to anticipate the rupture by attacking them, if possible, before they were prepared. Accordingly, 1000 men were forthwith raised, and marched into the Narraganset country. In the mean time, the Indians, receiving intelligence of the design against them, fortified themselves in a swamp, with all the skill they were masters of. On the 19th of December, about one o'clock, the English reached the spot, and, without drawing up in order of battle, suddenly entered the swamp, pursuing the advanced guard to the fortress, which was situated on an eminence, palisaded all round, and within a very thick hedge. It was only to be entered by a gap at one corner, where the breastwork was lower than in other parts; but directly opposite this passage was placed a blockhouse. As it happened, the Captain's Garden, Gallop, Sely, and  
 1771 by the Massachusetts, the rest by Connecticut and Plymouth colonies.  
 opened,

pened, the English fell upon this very place. The captains entered at the head of their companies, but not without the loss of the two foremost, Johnson and Davenport, and many of their men, who were shot dead on the spot. The Indians were then attacked in their strong-holds; they fought desperately, and forced the assailants out of the fort. A furious fight succeeded for upwards of two hours, by which time, however, the English had re-taken the fort, and set fire to 5 or 600 wigwams, wherein many women and children were destroyed.

20 Night coming on, hastened the return of the English to their quarters, which were at 15 or 16 miles distance. They carried their dead and wounded men with them, but had the mortification to see many of the latter expire in this long and cold march, who might otherwise have been preserved. They reached their quarters about two o'clock next morning. Of their killed and wounded the whole number was about 170; amongst the former, besides the two above-mentioned, were the Captains Gardner, Gallop, Siely, and Marshall. The Indians, as some of them confessed, had 700 warriors killed, and 300 more died

died of their wounds: the number of souls lost by the fire could not be ascertained. They repossessed the fort the next day; and the English, having spent some weeks in refreshing themselves, during which terms of accommodation were unsuccessfully proposed on both sides, returned to Boston in February.

The enemy quitted the Narraganset country in January, which struck terror thro' all the colonies, from an apprehension that a general junction was intended by the savages. On the 10th of February several hundreds of them burnt Lancaster, killing and taking prisoners 40 of the inhabitants; on the 21st, they burnt down half the town of Medfield, and killed 18 persons; and on the 25th, set fire to 7 or 8 houses at Weymouth, within 20 miles of Boston. In March the Indians ravaged with fire and sword the towns of Northampton and Springfield on Connecticut river, Groton, Sudbury, and Marlborough, in the Massachusetts, and Warwick and Providence in Rhode-Island colony, killing many of the inhabitants: they penetrated into the town of New Plymouth, where they murdered 11 persons of one family; on the

26th drew Captain Pearce, of Scituate, at the head of 50 English and 20 allied Indians, into an ambush, and killed every man of the former, and a great part of the latter, who, however, sold their lives very dear; and on the 28th, burnt 40 houses, besides barns, at Rehoboth.

The war was now at a crisis which endangered the very being of the colonies in New-England. Where Philip passed the winter has never been certainly discovered, for he disguised his person, to prevent apprehension on account of the reward; but his affairs were never at such an height of prosperity, nor those of the English in such a depth of adversity, as at that time. Happily, the month of April brought a turn of fortune. The Indians were worsted in two battles with the Connecticut forces, and suffered considerable loss, though not a single man fell among the victors. The Massachusetts, indeed, lost Captain Wadsworth and 50 soldiers, as they were marching to the relief of Sudbury, which the Indians had attacked; but this appears to have been the last blow the English received. A want of provisions and ammunition, which the enemy had long experienced, daily increasing, their vigour began

to



to relax ; and the Mohawks falling upon and killing 50 of them\*, added to their discouragement. The English availed themselves of this distress, and from time to time routed them wherever they made a stand : Captain (afterwards Colonel) Church particularly distinguished himself.

But it was on the life or death of Philip himself that war or peace depended. He, therefore, was the chief object of the enquiries of the English. At length, information was received, that, after a twelvemonth's absence, he was returned to Mount Hope, whither being quickly pursued, he fled from one swamp to another, till, after losing the chief of his friends (particularly his wife and son, who were made prisoners), he was shot through the heart, on the 12th of August, 1676, by one of his own soldiers, who, from some offence received, had deserted to the

\* Philip, it was said, killed a party of the Mohawks, a powerful Indian nation, and then reported that the English were the murderers, with a view of provoking that body to engage in the war ; but one of the party, who had been left for dead, recovering, and undeceiving his countrymen, that vengeance fell upon Philip's own people, which he villainously intended for the English.

English. His right hand having a remarkable scar, well known to the English, the fellow cut that off, instead of his head, and acquired a pretty penny from the exhibition of it to the curious. Tranquility was soon after re-established in the southern parts, the rest of the Indians either quitting the country, or submitting to the English.

But a war still continued, which had been commenced about the time of the breaking-out of Philip's disturbances, by the Indians in the N. E. parts, where they had committed numerous murders and outrages. A peace, however, was concluded on the 13th of November, 1676; notwithstanding which, they continued their depredations in 1677, till Major Andros having stationed forces at Pemaquid, by authority of the Duke of York, the savages were for some time kept quiet.

In the mean time, the Massachusetts were alarmed with the apprehension of troubles of another nature. Complaints and enquiries were making in England which struck at the powers of their government, and, indeed, which eventually occasioned the dissolution of their charter. But what more immediately threatened them was the loss of the territories

stories of New-Hampshire and Main, to which claims were respectively preferred and maintained by Mason and Gorges. It would be an ungrateful talk, had we room, to enter into the merits of them, on account of the confusion of grants made by the Council of Plymouth. Suffice it, therefore, to say, that the Massachusets sent over agents to defend their own title; but, upon a hearing before the Lords of a Committee of the Council, in 1677, were unsuccessful\*. Hereupon, the Massachusets, loth to suffer so considerable a dismemberment, purchased of Mr. Gorges his right to Main, for 1200l. sterling: but they entirely lost New-Hampshire; for Mason not pretending to have any right to the jurisdiction, but to the soil only, the Crown issued a commission for governing that province, the

\* It was then determined, that the Massachusets had a right to "three miles north" of Merrimak river, *following its course* throughout.—The province experienced another defalcation, by a determination of his late Majesty in Council, in 1738, viz. that so far as the river kept a western course, and no farther, the province line should run the same course, keeping the distance of three miles north of the river, but after that to run due west.

Governor, Council, and Magistrates, being afterwards appointed by the King.

But this was but the beginning of troubles: the colony of Massachusetts-bay had many enemies in England, and none greater than Edward Randolph, who had been dispatched to them with the complaints of Mason and Gorges, and who, (it being a part of his errand likewise to enquire into the state of the colony,) according to the people's own phrase, "went up and down seeking to devour them;" and, on his return to England, represented them as paying no obedience to the acts for regulating the trade of the plantations. The Quakers, also, presented complaints of oppression.

On account of the gathering storm, it was necessary the agents should remain in England, whilst the colony endeavoured to avert it, by a removal of the exceptions taken against them in England. An act was made to punish high treason with death; another, to compel all persons upwards of 16 years of age to take the oaths of allegiance; and the King's arms were put up in the court-house. What they complied with the most reluctantly, were the acts of trade. They told their agents,



gents, they “ apprehended them to be an invasion of the rights, liberties, and properties, of the subjects of his Majesty in the colony, *they not being represented in parliament*; . . . however, as his Majesty had signified his pleasure, that those acts should be observed in the Massachusetts, they had made provision, *by a law of the colony*, that they should be strictly attended to from time to time, although it greatly discouraged trade, and was a great damage to his Majesty’s plantation.”—These precautions were followed by a fast on the 21st of December, 1678, to implore the divine blessing upon their endeavours for obtaining favour with the King, and the continuance of charter privileges.

The Popish Plot gave a short respite to inquisitorial proceedings against the colony; and the agents obtained leave from the King to return home, where they arrived on the 3d of December. They carried with them a letter from his Majesty, dated July 24, 1679, containing sundry requisitions, one of which was, that agents should be sent over in six months, fully instructed to answer and transact what was undetermined at that time. But in this particular the colony failed, alleging,

in excuse, their inability to support the expence, from the great charges of the late war.

In 1678, Randolph arrived in New-England, in the capacity of inspector of the customs, and became very troublesome as an informer, but lost most of his actions with costs. He was in England again in 1679;—in New-England at the end of the same year, watching the colony narrowly;—in England the next winter,—and in New-England again in 1681\*, with a commission from the crown appointing him collector, surveyor, and searcher of the customs in New-England. He desired the countenance and authority of the General Court; but his application being slighted, he gave public notice of his office by setting up an advertisement in the town-house, which, however, being taken down, he imputed the fact to the General Court.

A letter being received from the King in 1680, censuring their neglect of sending over agents, and requiring a compliance within three months after receipt, the Court proceeded to

\* According to a parade he made of his services to the Committee of Council, he visited New-England eight several times in nine years.

appoint

appoint Mess. Stoughton and Nowell to the service ; but they absolutely refused to undertake it : and the choice of others was delayed. At length, their *good friend* Randolph brought another letter from the King, dated October 21, 1681, complaining, “ That the collector had not been able to execute his office to any effect ; . . . that he had been obliged to deposit money before he could bring an action against offenders ; that appeals, in matters relating to the revenue, had been refused ; ” &c. wherefore, it was required, “ that fit persons be sent over without delay, to answer these complaints, with powers to submit to such regulations of government as his Majesty should think fit, . . . and that appeals be allowed.” The Court answered, “ That Mr. Randolph was acknowledged collector ; . . . that they would require no deposit for the future ; but, as to admitting appeals, they hoped it would be further considered.” — There were other charges in the King’s letter, but of less moment, and the Court positively denied them.

The immediate appointment of agents was resolved upon by a Court called in February,  
1681-2,

1681-2, when Mess. Dudley and Richards were chosen: they sailed May 31, and a fast was ordered to be observed through the colony, on June 22, to pray for their success, and the preservation of the charter. Randolph followed the agents, to be at hand, in order to publish every thing they might wish to conceal.

With respect to the King's requisition, that they should invest their agents with power to submit to regulations of government, every one plainly perceived that the power meant was that of surrendering the charter: nevertheless, the Court relied (or rather were willing to rely) on his Majesty's repeated declarations in favour of it; and, therefore, directed the agents not to consent to any thing which should violate the privileges granted, or the government established, thereby. Soon after the agents had been heard before the Council, they received commands to deliver their powers and instructions to Sir Lionel Jenkins, Secretary of State, for his private perusal; when it appearing, that they were by no means such as had been required, Lord Radnor acquainted the agents, that the Council had, *nem. con.* agreed to report to his Majesty,



jetty, that, unless they forthwith obtained powers enabling them to satisfy in all points, a *Quo Warranto* should proceed,

To a representation of the above to the General Court, the agents added as well an account of the submission of many cities in England, as the determination on the *Quo Warranto* issued against the city of London for refusing to surrender; that the Court might be the better enabled to judge what step would be most proper to take at so important a crisis. — The inhabitants at large were consulted; when it appeared to be the general opinion, that “it was better to die by the hands of others than by their own:” and the agents were consequently instructed to make no concessions of any privileges which the colony enjoyed by virtue of their charter.

This resolution was no sooner known in England than a *Quo Warranto* was ordered to go against the charter; and Randolph was the appointed “messenger of death.” The business of the agents, therefore, being at an end, they left England, and arrived at Boston on the 23d of October, 1683; and a few days after arrived also Randolph, armed with the

the above-mentioned writ, and 200 copies of the proceedings against the charter of London, to be dispersed through the colony, by advice of the Privy Council. However, these instruments of terror were accompanied by a *conciliatory* declaration from the King, to the following purport: "That, if the colony, before prosecution, would make full submission and entire resignation to his pleasure, his Majesty would regulate their charter for his service and their good, and with no further alterations than should be necessary for the support of his government there." — In despair of any success from resistance, the Governor and major part of the Assistants, on the 15th of November, 1683, passed a submissive vote indeed, in which are the following passages; "That, upon a serious consideration of his Majesty's gracious intimations, . . . in his late declaration . . . we will not presume to contend with his Majesty in a course of law, but humbly lay ourselves at his Majesty's feet, in a submission to his pleasure so declared," &c. &c. "The magistrates have passed this with reference to the consent of their brethren the Deputies thereto."

The

The Deputies, however, after a fortnight's *serious consideration*, were of a different opinion, and, on the 30th of November, with reference to the vote of their brethren the magistrates, laconically declared as follows:

"The Deputies consent not, but adhere to their former bills."—A letter of attorney was therefore sent to Mr. Humphrys, empowering him to appear and answer for the colony; and several addressees were successively presented; but all in vain, judgment being entered up against their charter, in June, 1684, through default, but subject, nevertheless, to this reservation, that, if the colony appeared the first day of the ensuing Michaelmas term, and pleaded to issue, so as to take notice of trial to be had that same term, then the said judgment to be set aside, otherwise the same was to stand recorded. Hence, in September, a *Scire Facias* was received at Boston by Mr. Dudley, and laid before a special Court: but another address was all the answer attempted; for the time appointed for their appearance at Westminster was elapsed before the writ was received; and, indeed, further time having been applied for  
in

vain, the judgment before entered up against their charter stood recorded.

Similar requisitions of submission had been sent also to the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode-Island, and complied with to the full satisfaction of Charles II. who, as we have seen above, was jealous enough of authority; nevertheless, under James II. on July 15, 1685, an order was made in Council for the Attorney-General to bring writs of *Quo Warranto* against both their charters.—An offer was kindly made to Connecticut of being annexed either to the colony of Massachusetts-bay or New-York. The people importuned for the continuance of their privileges; but, if they must lose their charter, they chose to be annexed to the Massachusetts. This was construed a surrender.

But, notwithstanding the submission of the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode-Island, and the actual disfranchisement of Massachusetts-bay, they severally continued, though in a feeble manner, to exercise their former powers of government. In May, however, 1686, a commission was received at Boston, empowering Mr. Dudley as President, and several



several gentlemen of the Council, to assume the government of Massachusetts-bay. This administration was unimportant and short; for in December following arrived Sir Edmund Andros, as Governor of New-England; so that the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode-Island, which possibly expected better things, after bowing so low to Cæsar, now saw the same scourge held over them, with which the refractory Massachusetts were to be chastised. The arbitrary disposition of Sir Edmund was well known; and, though a little restrained at first, soon broke out to the sore grievance of the people. The Governor, and four or five of his Council, imposed what taxes they pleased; and amongst various other maxims equally preposterous, it was broached, that the people's conveyances were not according to the laws of England, and that, upon the annihilation of their charters, their former titles ceased, or, according to a quaint expression then in vogue, "The calf died in the cow's belly:" so that there was a necessity of their taking out new grants or titles, which was not to be done but at high rates and exorbitant fees.

It is by no means extraordinary, that the colonies

colonies should take the first favourable opportunity of delivering themselves from these oppressions. Such the Massachusetts thought presented itself on the arrival at Boston of the joyful news of the Revolution in England. The smothered flame of their indignation now burst out; on April 16, 1689, they suddenly rose, and made prisoners of the most obnoxious of their tyrannizing rulers, and forced Sir Edmund to surrender himself and the fort\*. This *coup de main* was struck by the great body of the people, without any previous proposal of it to the leading men of the place; some of whom, however, seeing matters carried to such a height, thought it prudent to form themselves into a "a council for the safety of the people, and conservation of the peace," and recommended to the different towns an election of representatives to compose an assembly. These being met, it was agreed, that the Governor, Deputy-Governor, Council, &c. last chosen before Dudley's administration, Sir Edmund was afterwards sent for to England, to answer certain charges of mal-administration; he, on the other hand, recriminated on the colony on account of the insurrection: the whole, however, was hushed up.

should

should take upon them respectively the part they had borne in the government under the charter, (of which, nevertheless, they disclaimed the re-assumption,) until orders should be received from England; and soon after, they were authorized to "continue, in the King's name, their care in the administration" of public affairs, until his Majesty should give "directions for the more or, less settlement" thereof.

The colonies of Connecticut and Rhode-Island, upon receiving information of the overthrow of the Governor, re-assumed their charters, in the enjoyment of which they were suffered to continue by the new monarch, no judgment having been given against them. The people of New-Plymouth, also, re-established their old constitution, and preserved it till they were incorporated with their neighbours the Massachusetts.

The Indians on the north-eastern frontiers renewed, in 1688, their ravages and murders; and the Penicook Indians, on Merrimack river, treacherously broke the peace also in the spring of the year 1689. These savages being instigated and supported by the French in Canada and Nova Scotia, the Govern-

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ment,

ment, as soon as the late disturbances afforded leisure, formed a design of carrying the war into those territories. Eight small vessels, therefore, with 7 or 800 men, under the command of Sir William Phips\*, sailed for Port-

\* Sir William Phips had been a favourite of Fortune. He was born at Pemaquid, in 1650, and kept sheep there till the 18th year of his age, when he was apprenticed to a ship-carpenter. Having compleated his servitude, he set up; but his inclination soon led him to a sea-faring life, wherein he was lucky enough to gain intelligence of a Spanish wreck near the Bahama Islands, of which he gave so flattering an account in England, that he was sent out in a King's ship (the *Algier Rose*), in search of it; but failed, and the Government declined to make a second trial. However, so sanguine were the hopes of Sir William, who attributed his late miscarriage to the impatience of his crew, that the Duke of Albemarle was induced to equip a vessel for another attempt. Accordingly, Sir William sailed, found the much-coveted object, and fished up gold, silver, &c. &c. to the value of 300,000*l.* whereof 16,000*l.* fell to his own share; and the Duke, by way of gratuity, made his lady a present of a golden cup worth 1000*l.* The courtiers advised the King to seize the treasure; but his Majesty rejected their proposal, retorting, that it was owing to their pusillanimous counsels he was not the legal owner of it; and, as a mark of approbation of Sir William's conduct, conferred on him the honour of knighthood.

Royal



Royal (since called Annapolis), the then chief fortress of Nova Scotia, on the 28th of April, 1690. The place surrendered without resistance; and Sir William having taken possession of the whole sea-coast from thence to the New-England settlements, returned on the 30th of May.

This success inspired the Massachusetts with the hopes even of the conquest of Canada, especially as Connecticut and New-York engaged to join in the undertaking. Assistance had also been solicited from England, and, very unadvisedly, the best part of the summer was spent in waiting for it. The fleet mustered for the purpose consisted of between 30 and 40 vessels, and the men amounted to about 2000, with Sir William Phips at their head: this armament was destined to make a descent on Quebec; whilst a strong corps, raised by Connecticut and New-York, were to march over land and attack Montreal, with a view of dividing the French forces.

Despairing, at length, of succours from England, the fleet sailed on the 9th of August; but contrary winds retarded its appearance before Quebec till the 5th of October.

Sir William next morning sent Count Frontenac, the Governor, a pompous summons to surrender, but received an insolent\* refusal. An attempt was made to land on the 7th, but frustrated by the wind. On the 8th, between 12 and 1300 (all the effective) men were landed, but in disorder, the French and Indians firing upon them from the woods: the ships were drawn up the next day before the town, but (the largest carrying only 44 guns) did not so much damage to the enemy as they received. The troops on shore made very little progress, receiving from a deserter an account of the strength of the French, which he represented to be very great. To retreat was preferable to acting on the defen-

\* Count Frontenac was so enraged at Sir William's summons in the name of King William and Queen Mary, that he was with difficulty restrained from hanging the officer who carried it. The answer he returned was as follows:—"That Sir William Phips and those  
 " with him were heretics, and traitors to their King,  
 " and had taken up with that usurper the Prince of  
 " Orange, and had made a revolution, which, if it had  
 " not been made, New-England and the French had  
 " been all one; and that no other answer was to be  
 " expected from him, but what should be from the  
 " mouth of his cannon."

five merely ; which, as it is pretended, was all that could be done in the situation they then were ; the troops, therefore, re-embarked on the 11th, and that with precipitation. At a council of war the next day, it was agreed to make another attack ; but tempestuous weather coming on, dispersed the fleet, and left no hope but that of returning safe to Boston, where Sir William arrived on the 19th of November. Some of the ships were driven to the West-Indies, one lost on the island of Anticosti, and two or three never heard of again. According to Sir William's account, no more than 30 men were killed by the enemy ; but numbers died of the small-pox and camp disease ; the whole loss about 200, besides those who perished by shipwreck. Mr. Walley, who commanded the forces that landed, was censured by individuals, but he was never called to account by authority. However remiss he might be, it is generally allowed, that the expedition failed chiefly from the lateness of the season, and the unaccountable conduct of the New-York and Connecticut corps, which, 'tis true, set off on their proposed march, but returned without even reaching the place of their destination ; so that Fronte-

nac reserved his whole force for the defence of Quebec.

On the return of the fleet, the soldiers were pressing for their pay, which the Government were as totally unprovided to give them, as if they had fully depended upon the spoils of the enemy for that purpose. However, they passed an act for levying the requisite sum; but the men would not wait the time necessary to bring it into the treasury, and betrayed strong symptoms of a mutinous inclination. From this dilemma originated the issuing of bills of credit, as a substitute for cash. The soldiers demands were discharged by notes, from 2s. to 10l. value, which were to be received in payment of the tax about to be levied, &c. But though Sir William Phips is said to have exchanged a large sum at par, to give these notes credit, the soldiers could pass them for no more than 12 or 14s. in the pound. yet by the time the taxes were to be paid, the notes had gradually risen to above par, being for that purpose better than specie, by reason of the Government's allowing five per cent. discount.

During the expedition to Port Royal, the Indians



dians made themselves masters of Casco fort, and took 100 persons prisoners : but whilst the event of that to Canada was unknown, they generally seemed disposed to a truce ; and one was agreed to on Nov. 9, to continue till May 1, 1691, when a lasting peace was to be established : but, as soon as the truce was expired, the Indians, instead of attending, according to appointment, for settling the conditions, recommenced hostilities with redoubled fury, slaughter, and devastation.

Notwithstanding the miscarriage of his late expedition, Sir William Phips was still bent on the reduction of Canada ; and determined to apply personally to the crown for assistance. He arrived in England in the beginning of the year 1691, and represented his proposed undertaking in the most flattering point of view : but, at that juncture, King William found it necessary to employ all the men and money he could raise in defending himself against the French.

In the mean time the Massachusetts were soliciting by agents a restoration of their old charter ; but soon found themselves not likely to succeed in that point, as well from the King's own sentiments, as from the

arguments urged against it by the enemies of the colony, who imputed all its present distresses to the old bad platform of government. A difference of opinion arose among the agents: one of whom (Mr. Mather) was inclined, since little hope remained of recovering the old one, to petition for a new charter, reserving as many of the old privileges as possible, whilst the other two (Mess. Cooke and Oakes) would have the old charter, or none. However, Oakes so far relaxed as to join with Mather in petitioning for a new charter, which, after many disappointments and crosses, the strenuous perseverance of the latter at length obtained.

We have mentioned that the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode-Island re-assumed their charters on the revolution in Massachusetts-bay. Plymouth never had any; and the present was judged a proper opportunity to supply the defect of their constitution in that respect. The colony, therefore, made application to the crown for a charter; but it was not duly supported, the intestine dissensions among the people preventing their raising a fund sufficient for the purpose. The design at court was, to annex that colony either to

New-

New-York or Massachusetts-bay, Mr. Wiffal, agent for the colony, imprudently multiplying exceptions to the proposal of joining it to the latter (though with the view of obtaining a separate charter), disgusted the ministry, and occasioned its incorporation with New-York. This could not but prove, to the last degree, dissatisfactory to the New Plymouthans, on several accounts, but especially as the two territories were near 300 miles asunder: and Mr. Mather, knowing them to have a predilection in favour of Massachusetts-bay, if a separate charter could not be obtained, very discretely interfered, and procured the colony's being struck out of the New-York charter, and inserted in that of the Massachusetts\*, the substance of which we shall now lay before the reader.

The new charter annexes to the former colony of Massachusetts-bay, the ancient colony of New-Plymouth, the Provinces of Main

\* Time has evinced the wisdom of this alteration:

"The customs, manners, and religious opinions of the two colonies being much the same, they mutually consider themselves as having one joint general interest, as fully in all respects as if they had been one colony from the beginning."

and

and Nova-Scotia, and the country lying between Maine and Nova-Scotia (Sagadahok) as far north as the river St. Laurence; also the Elizabeth Islands, and the islands Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, &c. and incorporating the whole into one province, by the name of the Province of Massachusetts-bay, in New-England. The quit-rent to be a fifth part of all gold, silver, and precious stones, which may be found there. Lands, hereditaments, &c. formerly granted by any General Court, to be confirmed. The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Secretary, to be in the King's nomination. A General Court or Assembly to be convened the last Wednesday in May yearly, consisting of the Governor, Council, and Representatives of the towns, not exceeding two for each town; the qualification for an elector 40s. freehold, or 50l. sterling personal estate. The General Assembly\* to elect 28 counsellors, viz.

18 from

\* It became matter of doubt whether the Council (who were part of the General Assembly) were entitled to votes in their own re-election. The point was positively agreed to be given up by the first Council; but the person deputed to signify their concession to the

House



18 from the old colony of Massachusetts-bay, four from that of Plymouth, three from the Province of Main, one from the territory of Sagadahok, and two at large; whereof seven at least to make a board. The Governor, with consent of the Council, to appoint the officers in the courts of justice. All born in the province, or in the passage to and from it, to be deemed natural born subjects of England. Liberty of conscience to all Christians, except Papiſts\*. The General Aſſembly to conſtitute judiciaries for all cauſes criminal or civil, capital or not capital. Probate of

House of Representatives, finding, on coming to that aſſembly, that they were candidly putting that very queſtion to the vote, waited the reſult, which proved to be, that the members of one Council ſhould have voices in chuſing the next: which privilege they have ever ſince enjoyed.

There is no expreſs provision for an eccleſiaſtical conſtitution. Some time after the new charter, a great part of the church and inhabitants of Salem village petitioned the General Court to appoint an eccleſiaſtical council to ſettle a controverſy with Mr. Parris, the miniſter, but the Court reſuſed.—Synods were occaſionally called under the old charter. Some ſteps were taken for calling a ſynod about thirty years after the new charter arrived, but a royal inſtruction prevented any farther progreſs.

Houſe

wills,

wills, and granting of administration, to be in the Governor and Council. In personal actions, exceeding the value of 300l. sterling, appeal to be made, within 14 days after judgment, to the King in Council, but execution not staid. The General Assembly to make laws, but not repugnant to those of England; to appoint all civil officers, excepting the officers of the courts of justice above-mentioned; and to impose taxes, to be disposed of by the Governor and Council. The Governor to have a negative in all acts and elections\*. All acts of Assembly to be sent, by the first opportunity, to the King in Council, for approbation; if not disallowed within three years after presentation, to continue in force until repealed by the Assembly. The Governor to command the militia, to use the law martial in time of actual war, to erect forts, and demolish the same at pleasure; but the law martial

\* The Speaker of the House was at first elected, and took his place, without any notice to the Governor; and, for many years after the present charter, there was only the formality of notice, until disputes, upon other points with the Governor, caused him to insist upon his right of negating the Speaker, which the House was obliged, after a long struggle, to submit to.

not to be executed without consent of the Council. When there is neither Governor nor Lieutenant-Governor, the majority of the Council to act. The General Assembly to have full power of granting lands throughout the province, with this restriction, no grant of lands between Sagadahok and St. Lawrence rivers to be valid without the royal approbation. All trees fit for masts, of 24 inches diameter and upwards, twelve inches from the ground, growing on land not before granted to any private persons, to be reserved to the crown; penalty for cutting any such reserved trees, 100l. sterling per tree. No subject of England to be debarred from fishing on the sea-coasts, creeks, &c. The conversion of the Indians to be attempted.

This charter is dated October 7, 1691.

Though the new charter expressly reserved to the King the nomination of the Governor, his Majesty allowed the agents, or rather Mr. Mather, to make choice of the first, who fixed on Sir William Phips: and on May 14, 1692, Sir William arrived at Boston, where the charter, whatever were the sentiments of some individuals, met with general approbation.

This

This seems to be the proper place for laying before the reader an account of the horrid persecutions for witchcraft, which have cast an indelible blot on the history of this country, and cannot be paralleled in that of the whole world besides.

Witchcraft first gained credit in New-England about the year 1645; when several persons residing at Springfield, upon Connecticut river, were supposed to be possessed by evil spirits, and, among the rest, two of the minister's children. Many persons were charged with dealing with dæmons, and great pains taken to prove them guilty; but none were convicted till 1650, when three women suffered death, one at Charlestown, one at Dorchester, and another at Cambridge, declaring their innocence to the last moment. In 1655, Mrs. Hibbins, a counsellor's widow, was hanged at Boston. — In 1662, three women were executed at Hartford, in Connecticut. — From this time, though many were suspected of being witches, and ill treated, none lost their lives on that account till 1687 or 1688, when four children of John Goodwin, three girls and a boy, in Boston, having taken an aversion to an old woman, one of the Wild

Irish,



Irish, were all seized with fits. They pretended to be tormented in various parts of their bodies, to be deaf, dumb, and blind. Sometimes their tongues hung out of their mouths, at others would be drawn down their throats; their jaws and all their joints would appear to be dislocated, and then they made most horrible outcries of being cut with knives, beat, burnt, &c. These complaints were never heard but in the day-time, for all night the children slept quite free from the least disturbance. The poor old wretch, fixed on as the victim of superstition, was apprehended; and, notwithstanding she appeared disordered in her senses, and nothing worse could be proved against her than her having used some abusive language to the eldest child, a girl of 13 years of age, she was pronounced a witch, and executed accordingly.

But in February, 1691-2, commenced the principal and last act of this bloody tragedy. A daughter and a niece of Mr. Parris, the minister of Salem village, girls of ten or eleven years of age, and two other girls in the neighbourhood, made the same sort of complaints which Goodwin's children had made two or three years before. The physicians,

cians, having no other way of accounting for  
 the disorder, pronounced them bewitched.  
 An Indian woman, who was brought into the  
 country from New Spain, and then lived  
 with Mr. Paris, tried some experiments, to  
 which she pretended to have been accustomed  
 in her own country, in order to find out the  
 witch. This coming to the childrens know-  
 ledge, they cried out upon the poor Indian  
 as appearing to them, pinching, pricking,  
 and tormenting them, and fell into fits. This  
 tuba, which was the Indian's name, acknow-  
 ledged that she had learnt how to find out  
 witch, but denied that she was one herself.  
 Several private fasts were kept at the minis-  
 ter's house, several more publicly by the  
 whole village, and then a general fast through-  
 out the colony, to seek to God to rebuke Satan.  
 So much notice taken of the children, toge-  
 ther with the compassion expressed by those  
 who visited them, not only tended to con-  
 firm them in their design, but to draw others  
 into the like. Accordingly, the number of  
 the complainants soon increased, among  
 whom were two or three women, and some  
 girls old enough to be witnesses. These had  
 their fits too, and, when in them, cried out

not

not only against Tituba, but against Sarah Osburn, a melancholy, distressed old woman, and Sarah Good, another old woman, who was bed-ridden; inasmuch that Tituba, at length, confessed herself a witch, and that the two old women were her confederates; whereupon they were all committed to prison. Bodur Tituba, upon search, was found to have scars upon her back, which were called the devil's marks; but might as well have been supposed those of her Spanish master.

Soon after this, two women of good characters, members of the church, were complained of as causing the children to fall into fits, and tormenting the mother of one of them, and committed to prison. Nay, such was the rage of this unaccountable infatuation, that an infant about four years old, was sent to prison also for biting some of the complainants. If *the afflicted*, as they called themselves, did but utter the name of any person during their pretended torments, that was sufficient accusation against the fairest character.

This pestilent phrenzy increasing, a commission of Oyer and Terminer for the trial of

persons accused of witchcraft was opened at Salem the first week in June, 1692; when Bishop Bridget was put on her trial. She had been charged with witchcraft 20 years before, but cleared by her accuser's confession of having charged her falsely: nevertheless, the neighbours imputing to her machinations all the losses they met with in cattle and poultry, oversetting of their carts, &c. and the afflicted and confessing witches testifying what they had heard from the spectres, and seen of her spectre, the poor old woman must needs be a witch still; and being convicted, she was executed on the 10th of June.—Having given an instance of their righteous judgment and mercy, the Court adjourned to June 30, at which session the following women were capitally convicted, Sarah Good, Rebekah Nurse, Susannah Martin, Elizabeth How, and Sarah Wilder.—Of these none gave much trouble but Rebekah Nurse, who, being a person of great piety, made so good a defence, that the jury at first found her Not Guilty; but the *afflicted* witnesses bursting into hideous outcries against her, they then found her guilty, and she suffered as well as the rest.



At the next adjournment, on the 3th of August, six persons were condemned, one of whom was the Rev. Mr. George Burroughs, minister of Falmouth, and a man of great probity. The evidence on which he was convicted, was as absurd and extravagant \* as can be imagined, and the conduct of his

\* In his indictment (which is a specimen of the rest) it is alleged, That George Burroughs . . . on the 9th day of May, in the 4th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary, by the grace of God of England, &c. and divers other days and times as well before as after, certain detestable arts, called witchcrafts and forceries, wickedly and feloniously used, practised, and exercised, at and within the town of Salem, in the county of Essex aforesaid, in, upon, and against one Mary Walcot, of Salem village, in the county of Essex, single-woman; by which said wicked acts, the said Mary Walcot, the 9th day of May in the year aforesaid, and divers other days and times, as well before as after, was and is tortured, afflicted, pined, consumed, wasted, and tormented, against the peace of our sovereign Lord and Lady the King and Queen," &c.

The confessing witches swore, that Mr. Burroughs was the principal actor in their nocturnal revels, and was promised to be made king of Satan's kingdom, then about to be erected; that he gave them puppets, and thorns to stick into them, for afflicting the people of Salem, &c. &c. One of the *afflicted* witnesses deposed, that the prisoner pressed her to set her hand to a book, and insisted grievous torments on her for refusing; others, that he sounded a trumpet for the witches to rendezvous at a sacrament, and tempted those he tormented to partake with them, &c. Another convincing circumstance against him was, that, though he was a little man, he had held out a gun of seven feet barrel with one hand, and had carried a barrel full of cyder from a canoe to the shore. The prisoner said, that an Indian held out the gun also; on which it was immediately concluded, that the Indian must have been the Black Man. Again, his brother-in-law swore, that going out after strawberries, upon their return, Mr. Burroughs went into the bushes on foot, and tho' the witness rode a quick pace, yet the prisoner was at home as soon as he. Mr. Burroughs urged, that another person, who accompanied him, walked as fast as he did; but this was determined to be the Black Man also.

judges equally preposterous. In their *equitable* dispensation, witchcraft was that strange species of crime, the *confessed guilt* of which was always pardoned\*, whilst the *denial* of it was punished with death: and Mr. Burroughs's integrity preventing him from offering violence to his innocence by the confession of a *pretended* wickedness, the unjust sentence pronounced upon him was carried into execution. Before he was turned off the ladder, he made a solemn speech in vindication of his innocence; and performed his devotions, which he concluded with the Lord's prayer, with such composure, yet fervency of spirit, as drew tears from most of the spectators.

George Jacobs, sen. tried at the same time, was condemned on the evidence of his granddaughter, who, to save her own life, had been forced to confess herself a witch, and appear against him.

At the sessions holden on Sept. 9, and 17, sixteen more persons were condemned. Samuel Wardwell, who was accused even by his wife and daughter, to save their own lives,

\* Pity it is that none of the many confessors of witchcraft were put to the trial of sealing their *acknowledged guilt* with their blood; such a proceeding, probably, would soon have detected the fraud.

confessed

confessed himself a wizzard; but recanting his confession, he was hanged.

Martha Cory was condemned on spectral evidence, it being sworn, that Mr. Parris's daughter, and two other children, saw a ghost, in the likeness of Mrs. Cory, come towards them with a book to sign.

Giles Cory, her husband, was pressed to death, for refusing to plead and submit to such chimerical evidence.

Mary Esty, sister to Rebekah Nurse, was another sufferer.—She presented a pathetic petition to the magistrates, not so much with a view of saving her own life, as to induce them to examine the confessing witches more strictly, and to make them sensible of the innocent blood they were shedding.

We need not, we think, particularize more instances to give the reader a lively idea of the madness of the time: but must observe, generally, that, as the surest way to avoid accusation, was to become the accuser, the number of the *afflicted* increased every day, and the number of the accused in proportion. There was no safety even for the most unblemished reputation. More than one hundred

dred women\*, most of them of irreproachable characters, and of the best families in the towns of Salem, Beverly, Andover, Billerica, &c. were apprehended, examined, and the greatest part of them committed to prison. Some weak women, indeed, were really persuaded that they were witches; and that the devil, some how or other, although they could not tell how or when, had taken possession of their evil hearts, and therefore they thought they ought to confess themselves guilty.—Besides, these impious proceedings were in no small degree fomented by Avarice, which glutted on the confiscated effects† of the persecuted. Moreover, (so general was the delusion!) the Governor himself, Sir William Phips, countenanced the popular cry against the pretended offenders: and, to compleat their destruction, the magistrates manifested the grossest inimical prepossession a-

\* A principal part of the evidence against some of the women was the return of a jury, consisting of one man, a doctor, and eight women, appointed to examine their bodies for teats and other devil's marks. It is said, that the credulity of these juries was such, that even a flea-bite was mistaken for a devil's mark.

† About 20 years afterwards, upon the petitions of the relations of those who had been executed, and of others who had fled to save their lives, and whose goods had been seized, the General Court made grants in consideration of the losses sustained; but these bore no proportion to the real damages.

gainst



gainst them in their behaviour to the witnesses; for, instead of cross-examining and endeavouring to sift them to the bottom, they made use of such leading questions as might truly be said to put the words of conviction into their mouths.

The exemplary lives, solemn protestations, earnest remonstrances, and patient sufferings, of the supposed delinquents, were of no effect against this complication of adverse circumstances; and it is hard to say when the barbarous persecutions would have had an end, had not the accusers over-acted their parts, by beginning to charge the crime upon the magistrates themselves, and persons in high office. Thus Dudley Bradstreet, Esq; a justice of peace, relaxing in the prosecutions, was charged, and obliged to abscond; as was also his brother John Bradstreet: nay, the Secretary of the colony of Connecticut, and (according to a creditable writer) Sir William Phips's lady\*, were likewise among the accused.

It was high time for things to take a new turn; and, happily for the community, some

\* She is said to have saved a poor accused woman from trial; whence, to be sure, she must have been a confederate in witchcraft.

of the most zealous actors in this tragedy began now to be of opinion that innocent blood had been shed; which necessarily occasioned an alteration of conduct. Accordingly, at a Court holden at Salem in January, 1692-3, when about 56 persons were tried for witchcraft, no more than three were convicted, and those the Governor afterwards pardoned; and all that were not brought upon trial he ordered to be discharged. But none of the *afflicted* were ever brought to trial for their impostures.

The number of persons condemned in the last year was between 30 and 40, 19 of whom were hanged, and one pressed to death. The prisoners discharged amounted to about 150; and the accused persons passed over to 200. The confessing witnesses (among whom were three not above ten years of age) had increased to 50, and the *afflicted* to the same number\*.

Sir

\* These horrid transactions, however, passed not away without leaving the stings of remorse in the breasts of many persons concerned, particularly of 12 jurymen, who published a confession that they "were sadly deluded and mistaken, for which they were much distressed and distressed, and did therefore humbly beg forgiveness of God, for Christ's sake, for their error; and also prayed, that they might be considered candidly and aright by the living sufferers, as having been under the power of a strong and general delusion." One of the judges, also, was convinced he had done wrong; and at a public fast, in a full meeting, acknowledged his error in the late proceedings, and desired to humble himself

for

Sir William Phips found the colony in a state of great perturbation, not only from the affair of the witches, but from the irruptions of the Indians. He was charged by his instructions to build a strong fort at Pemaquid, which he did in the summer of 1692. This produced a peace in those parts in August, 1693. Nevertheless, it was broken the next year by the Penobscot and Norridgewock savages, at the instigation of the French, who supplied them with arms and ammunition.

Sir William was a man of a benevolent, but, at the same time, of a passionate disposition. An attachment to his friends embroiled him in a dispute with Mr. Brenton, the Collector of the Customs, which, together with another that happened between him and the Captain of the *Nonesuch* frigate, being preferred before the King, interest was made to displace Sir William from his government; but his Majesty was desirous of hearing his defence, and sent orders for him to repair to England to make it. Sir William's interest had for some time been upon the decline in

for the same before God and the people. The Rev. Mr. Parris, too, publicly confessed his error; nevertheless, he had incurred the odium of the people of Salem to such a degree, that they would not suffer him to continue their minister.

New-England : however, he obtained an address to the King from the House of Representatives, praying that the Governor might not be removed. He left Boston Nov. 19, 1694; and Mr. Stoughton took the chair. Sir William so far justified his conduct in London, as to be on the point of returning to his government, but was prevented by death on the 18th of Feb. 1694-5. The Earl of Bellamont was appointed Governor of Massachusetts in his room; also of New-York and New-Hampshire.

We have mentioned that Nova-Scotia was conquered by the Massachusetts in the year 1690. Their claim to that country was confirmed to them by its being included in the new charter. However, in 1691, it was seized by Mons. Villebon, by commission from the French King; and the Massachusetts, having miscarried in several attempts to recover it, petitioned the Crown, in 1696, that their province might be freed from any further expence concerning it\*. In 1696, also, the French demolished the strong fort at Pemaquid.

\* This seems to have been considered as a renunciation of their right; for, after the peace of Utrecht, Nova-Scotia was settled as a distinct province by the Crown.



The Indians continued to harass the northern parts of the country, in a greater or less degree, till the year 1698\*, when, having been deprived of the assistance of the French by the treaty of Ryfwick, concluded the preceding year, they again solicited and entered into terms of pacification.

Lord Bellamont arrived at Boston, from New-York, May 26, 1699. He resided only 14 months in New-England; during which time he was chiefly employed in the suppression of the Buccaneers. He returned to New-

\* In March, the Indians, in an attack upon Haverhill, burnt 9 houses, and killed and took prisoners near 40 of the inhabitants. Among the latter were Hannah Dunstan, who had lain in but a week before, her infant, and the nurse; the husband, with seven other children, having escaped. The infant's brains were presently dashed out against a tree, but the women were forced to travel 12 miles the first night, and to continue their rout day after day towards an Indian town at 250 miles distance. When they had trudged 150 miles, the Indians told them, that, on their arrival at the town, they must undergo the discipline of running the gantlet. Dunstan and her companion had been given as servants to an Indian family, consisting of two men, three women, and seven children, besides an English boy who had lived a prisoner with them for eighteen months. The dread of the gantlet excited all Dunstan's resolution; and she persuaded the nurse and the English boy to assist her in recovering their freedom by the destruction of the Indians. Accordingly, in the morning, before day-light, our Amazon called up her confederates to action. One after another the enemy were knocked on the head with their own hatchets, yet with such caution that none awoke; and thus these three prisoners dispatched the whole family, except a favourite boy, who was designedly spared, and an old woman whom they supposed they had killed, but who jumped up, and made her escape with the boy. With ten of their scalps, after a very fatiguing and dangerous journey, they reached their own home; and, for their courageous behaviour, received a reward of 50l. from the General Court, besides many valuable presents from individuals.

York

## 124 NEW-ENGLAND.

York in the summer of 1700, and there died on the 5th of March following. Mr. Dudley, who was appointed President in 1696, after the vacation of the charter, succeeded him as Governor of the Massachusetts province.

In May, 1702, died also Lieut.-Governor Stoughton; when, the Governor not being arrived, the administration, for the first time, devolved upon a majority of the Council, according to one of the provisions of the new charter.

Mr. Dudley, on his arrival at Boston, in 1702, was received with ceremonial respect; but soon engaged himself in disputes with the two Houses, particularly the House of Representatives. At the first election he negatived five of the Counsellors, and, in the year 1705, the Speaker of the House of Representatives. These steps gave very great offence, and the latter was not submitted to, the House alleging that no such authority belonged to his office. Another great contention arose from the Governor's being charged to recommend to the Assembly's particular attention the establishing honourable salaries for the Governor, Lieut.-Governor, and Judges of the Courts, for the time being. This instruction he urged to  
little

little purpose, for the House refused to fix any, allowing him only 500l. annually (300l. in the spring, and 200l. in the fall), and the Lieut.-Governor 200l. per annum.

The Governor had also a troublesome war on his hands. In consequence of the rupture between England and France, in 1702, the French of Canada and Nova-Scotia, and consequently the Indians, renewed their hostilities on the northern frontiers of New-England, surprising and sacking Deerfield\* in 1703. To encourage

\* Intelligence had been received that an attack was meditated by the Indians on the town of Deerfield, and the minister, Mr. Williams, had a strong impression on his mind that it would be destroyed. The inhabitants strangely slighted the warnings he gave them, and all the assistance provided against the threatened danger was a guard of 20 soldiers. In the night preceding the 29th of February, about 300 French and Indians approached the town, and, the watch which patrolled the streets falling asleep about two hours before break of day, set upon it with great fury. Mr. Williams was awaked with the noise of a party of them entering his bed-chamber. Though there was no hope of life from resistance, he took a loaded pistol from the tester of his bed, and snapped it at the first which drew near to him. It fortunately missed fire; for the death of one of the savages would only have insured his own. He was seized, and kept standing in his shirt, whilst his house was plundered, and two of his children and a Negro woman murdered. Orders were then given for himself, wife, and five other children, to dress, and prepare for a long march. Other houses had met with the like fate from other parties of the savages; 40 persons were killed, and 100 taken prisoners. About an hour after sun-rise the enemy had finished their work; and then left the place in flames. They hurried on with the utmost expedition, for fear of a pursuit; so that Mrs. Williams, who was in a weak condition from a recent lying-in, acquainted her husband the second day, she could keep their pace no longer. He solicited permission to accompany and assist her; but, being under different masters,

courage small parties to scour the woods, and hunt the enemy, the General Court offered a reward of 40l. for every Indian scalp; and in 1704, Col. Church, with 550 men, did considerable mischief to the enemy in Nova-Scotia, and the neighbourhood of Penobscot river, &c. &c.

In April, 1706, the enemy suddenly fell upon the English, on Oyster river; and a body of 270 men made spoil on Dunstable, Chelmsford, Sudbury, Groton, Exeter, Dover, &c. nay, five of them ventured to Reading, no more than 16 or 17 miles off Boston, where they surpris'd a poor woman with eight children, three of whom and the woman they killed, and carried the rest away\*.

masters, he was obliged to leave her behind. Perhaps every tender reader will think Mr. Williams's distress could not be heightened; alas! within a few days, he was informed his wife's master had sunk a hatchet into her brains. About 20 more of the prisoners, wearied out, were killed also, before they reached Canada.—Mr. Williams and most of the surviving captives were in time redeemed; and two of Mr. Williams's sons became worthy ministers at Waltham and Springfield: however, one of his daughters remained, having married an Indian husband; which is not so much to be wondered at, if it be considered, that the Indians frequently used their prisoners with great tenderness, when they had once securely carried them home.

\* Being straitened for provisions in their return, through bad success in hunting, they were preparing to roast a child of one Hannah Parsons; but (happily) a strange dog which they chanced to meet with served in its room.—Samuel Butterfield, a Groton soldier, having in his own defence killed one of their Chiefs, a dispute arose whether he should be burnt or whipped to death, and



In 1708, the enemy fell upon Haverill, set fire to several of the houses, killed between 30 and 40 persons, among whom were Mr. Rolfe, minister, and Mr. Wainwright, Captain of the towny and took many prisoners.

In 1709, an expedition was meditated in England against Canada: but the face of affairs in Europe was so altered by the battle of Almanza, that the design was dropped.

The solicitation of Col. Nicholson brought another expedition on the carpet against that country, but it terminated in a descent on Nova-Scotia. On Sept. 18, a fleet of 36 sail, men of war, transports, &c. included, sailed from Nantasket for Port-Royal. The land-forces consisted of a regiment of marines, and four regiments raised in New-England, under the command of Colonel Nicholson. The armament arrived at Port-Royal on the 24th of September, and the forces were landed without opposition. On the first of October, the batteries began to play: but the French Governor being summoned to surrender the same day, a cessation of arms ensued, in order

and an appeal was made to the wife of the deceased for determination. She answered, If killing the prisoner would restore her husband to life, she cared not by what means he suffered; but, if it would not, she wished to have him for her slave: which request was complied with.

to consider of terms of capitulation, which were signed by both parties the next day. The garrison were allowed to march out with the honours of war.

The favourite project against Canada afterwards induced Nicholson to repair to London for assistance. He returned to Boston on the 8th of June, with orders for the several governments of New-England, New-York, the Jerseys, and Pennsylvania, to get ready their respective quotas of men with the utmost dispatch, as a fleet was shortly to be expected; and which accordingly did arrive on the 24th, consisting of 15 men of war, and 40 transports. More dependence had been placed upon the Government of Massachusetts-bay for the completion of this armament, than was consistent with the dispatch required\*: however, with such diligence were the

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 \* The army was to be supplied with ten weeks provision at Boston:—a very extraordinary and hazardous circumstance this; as it might well have been questioned, whether a sufficient quantity could be there procured, a failure in which would have ruined the enterprize. It luckily happened, however, that the General Court was sitting when the news was brought; and, as provisions had thereupon started to a very extravagant rate, an order passed, fixing prices to the several kinds of provisions required. The owners demurred, and shut up their stores; in consequence of which, another order was issued, giving authority to open doors, and seize all the desired provisions that could be found. There was another error in the plan of this undertaking, viz. a reliance on obtaining also skilful pilots at Boston. The country really afforded

# NEW-ENGLAND

129

preparations carried on there, that the fleet weighed on the 30th of July, in order to proceed on the expedition. The land-forces, two New-England regiments included, amounted to near 7000 men. On the 18th of August, they arrived at Gaspee, and sailed again on the 20th. The two following days proved foggy; and the wind beginning to blow fresh at E. S. E. the ships brought to, with their heads to the southward. This was afterwards pretended to have been done by advice both of the English and French pilots on board, though the former positively denied the charge, so far as it respected themselves. In a few hours after the fleet brought to, some of the transports were beset with breakers, and at midnight eight or nine ships bulged upon rocks. Six or seven hundred men were taken up by the other ships, but 1000 were drowned. The men of war escaped; and next morning, the wind changing to W.S.W. the fleet bore away for Spanish River; but, the wind shifting again to E. eight days elapsed before all the ships arrived there. It

fording no better than ship-masters who had been once or twice up St. Laurence river, and were averse to quitting employments on which the support of their families depended; nevertheless, they likewise were impressed into the service.

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was now resolved, in a council of war, to make no further attempt; and the fleet set sail on its return home on the 16th of September \*.—In the mean time, Nicholson advanced with a body of American forces from Albany towards Montreal; but, hearing of the disaster which had befallen the fleet, he prudently marched back again.

In the year 1711, there was so ruinous a fire at Boston, that it was denominated the Great Fire till the year 1760, when happened the last and most dreadful.

In 1713, the Indians finding themselves carrying on the war without the French after the treaty of Utrecht, made overtures of peace, and, asking pardon for all past rebellions, entered into new articles of submission.

After a troublesome administration, partly from the long war, and partly from the opposition of the people over whom he presided, Governor Dudley was supplanted by Colonel

\* It has been attempted to fix the cause of this miscarriage on the Government of Massachusetts-bay, by imputing to them a dilatoriness in complying with the requisitions prescribed; but with the grossest injustice, as their zeal to promote the undertaking led them to measures so incompatible with the liberties of a free people, as, in our opinion, were scarcely warranted even by the exigency of the occasion. But the speedy sailing of the fleet from Boston, considering the short notice given, is alone a sufficient refutation of the calumny.

Burgess



Burgess on the accession of George I. but the Colonel was prevailed upon by Mess. Belcher and Dummer, for the consideration of 1000l. sterling, to resign his commission, in favour of Colonel Shute, who was accordingly appointed Governor, and arrived at Boston, Oct. 4. 1716. Disputes were renewed in a short time between him and the House of Representatives, particularly in regard to the power of the Governor to negative their Speaker. He also insisted on their settling a fixed salary of 1000l. sterling per ann. on the Governor, but with no better success than his predecessor; nay, his own allowance was reduced to 180l. for half a year.

In 1722, war was declared against the Norridgewock Indians, who had for several years been insulting and committing depredations on the English in the north-eastern parts, at the instigation of the French, particularly of a famous Jesuit, named Rallé, who had been long settled among them at Norridgewock, where he was almost adored; but he lost his life in an attack which the English made on that village on the 12th of August, 1724, refusing (as it is said) to give or take quarter. Six noted Indian warriors fell at the same

time. This success contributed greatly to a peace, which was agreed upon the ensuing year, and proved a lasting one.

The House of Representatives carried so high a hand against the Governor, that he determined to appeal to the Crown. Having, therefore, obtained permission for a temporary quitance of his government, he suddenly embarked for England the latter end of the year 1722, leaving the administration to Lieut. Gov. Dummer. New subjects of contention had been started between himself and the House of Representatives; these he resolved into certain complaints against that House, in substance as follow:—Infringing the reservation of trees for masts for the royal navy;—assuming power in the appointment of days for fasting and thanksgiving;—adjourning themselves to a distant day by their own act;—dismantling forts, &c.—suspending military officers, &c.—appointing committees of their own to direct and muster his Majesty's forces.—All these allegations the House voted to be groundless; but the determination of his Majesty in Council was the reverse. This occasioned an explanatory charter in 1725, wherein the power of the Governor to negative

negative the Speaker was expressly asserted, and the power of the House to adjourn themselves limited to two days.

Colonel Shute did not return to New-England; for, on the accession of George II. in 1727, he was removed to make room for Mr. Burnet, (son to the Bishop,) who had been constrained to yield up his government of New-York and the Jerseys to a favourite of the King's; however, the Colonel was rewarded, more to his mind, with an annual pension of 400l. sterling.

In the same year, happened an earthquake in New-England, and through a great part of North America. It was preceded by an astonishing rumbling noise, for about half a minute; then began the shock, which increased gradually for half a minute more, when it as gradually decreased.

Governor Burnet arrived at Boston July 13. 1728, into which capital he was ushered by a greater number of the inhabitants on horse-back and in carriages, than had ever met any Governor before. From this grand appearance Mr. Burnet deduced an argument, in his first speech to the Assembly, of their ability to support the Governor in an honourable

manner; and, at the same time, reminded them of the King's instructions concerning an established salary, which he was charged to insist upon. The House of Representatives parried the stroke with equal address and resolution. They agreed that a greater or less sum ought not to be an object of disputation with them, comparatively with the manner in which it was to be granted;—they were willing to allow, by renewed grants, an honourable support to the Governor; and, tho' they had denied more than 500*l.* sterling per annum to Colonel Shute, they passed grants to Mr. Burnet to the amount of 1700*l.* one of 300*l.* to defray the charges of his journey, and the other of 1400*l.* for his support. Mr. Burnet accepted the 300*l.* voted for his expences; but the 1400*l.* tendered for his support, he refused, because it was not voted to him as a fixed salary. This dispute, in which extraordinary powers of reasoning were displayed by the Governor, was wound up to such a pitch, that the House of Representatives resolved to present an humble address to the King on the subject; and Messrs. Wilks and Belcher were employed as their agents in England: but the conduct of the

Governor



Governor was approved in Council; and that of the House condemned.

In the midst of this sharp contention the Governor was seized with a fever, of which he died on the 7th of September, 1729.

The ministry were willing to appoint as a successor to Mr. Burnet, the person who was most likely to procure an establishment of fixed salaries; and, however surprizing it may seem, Mr. Belcher, whom we have just mentioned as employed in England in opposition to that measure, arrived, in August, 1730, as Governor at Boston. He was joyfully received; for the Colony, no less than the Crown, expected to find their account in his appointment. In his first speech, however, which was eagerly attended to, they found a reiteration of the subject which had produced so much dissention, and an express declaration, that "nothing prevented the contrary being laid before the Parliament but his Majesty's great lenity and goodness." Nevertheless, the House still refused to comply, and the contest continued, though not with that animosity as during the preceding administration. At length, the matter was accommodated by the following expedient: the

House having prepared a Bill, granting to the Governor 3400*l*. currency, or about 1000*l*. sterling, with a stipulation for the grant of the like sum annually during the Governor's continuance, he advised the House to petition for leave for him to receive the sum. This was granted, with an injunction on the Governor to persevere in his utmost endeavours to procure a full compliance with the instruction. He continued to receive particular grants by the like permission for two or three years; when a general order of leave being obtained to receive such sums as were granted, this long controversy subsided.

In 1739 was carried into execution a scheme for a land-bank\*, which Governor Belcher had endeavoured to suppress in vain;

A scarcity of money being universally complained of, 700 or 800 persons, some few of good, but the generality of small estate, proposed to give credit to 150,000*l*. lawful money, to be issued in bills, each person being to mortgage a real estate in proportion to the sums he subscribed and took out, or to give bond with two sureties; but no one was to subscribe more than 100*l*. on personal security. Ten directors and a treasurer were to be chosen. Every subscriber or partner was to pay 3 per cent. interest for the sum taken out, and 5 per cent. for the principal; and the produce and manufacture of the province might be paid instead of bills. But the operation of this measure was confined, and of short duration. Men of large property and the principal merchants refused to receive the bills, whilst shopkeepers and small traders gave them credit; hence great confusion beginning to arise, the former applied to Parliament, and obtained an act to suppress the company.

vain,

but he continued, nevertheless, to evince his aversion to it; he negatived the Speaker and 13 new elected Counsellors, and displaced a number of officers solely on account of their being favourers of it. This conduct created him many enemies, who ceased not to blacken his character by misrepresentations, till in return they had insidiously effected his removal, without affording him any opportunity of vindicating himself.

Mr. Shirley was his successor, and in general well approved of by the province; and a salary of 1000l. sterl. per ann. was allowed him.

A rupture with France being looked upon as an unavoidable event, after war was commenced with Spain in 1740, Castle-William was repaired, and strengthened with a new battery of 24 pounders. In May, 1744, Duvivier, with 900 men, from Louisbourg, surprized and made himself master of Canso; and many English vessels were afterwards taken and carried into Louisbourg. A project was formed, therefore, of surprizing that place, in turn, early in the ensuing year, before the customary succours should have arrived there from Europe; and, after much deliberation, resolved upon by the House of Repre-

Representatives by a majority of one only. Nevertheless, as each entered into the debate with no other than truly patriotic views, the design was no sooner adopted, than a hearty concurrence took place among all of them to promote it. A body of men, to be commanded by Colonel Pepperell, was accordingly raised, and other preparations carried on, with the utmost dispatch\*; and with the

\* All the colonies as far as Pennsylvania were invited to engage in the undertaking; but all excused themselves, except the other three of New-England, which severally agreed to raise the following bodies of men; viz. Connecticut 500, New-Hampshire and Rhode-Island, 300 each. The Massachusetts forces consisted of 3250 men. What they stood most in need of was a fleet, sufficiently strong to keep the seas against the enemy in those parts: a ships, the largest only of 30 guns, a privateer of 300 tons, three snows, a brig, and three sloops, constituted the whole of their naval force. But by a series of lucky incidents they surmounted all difficulties. The winter was so mild, as to admit of all preparations being carried on without impediment; and the Governor interested himself indefatigably in furthering them with all the powers of his office. The armament sailed from Nantasket, March 24, 1745, and reached Canso, the place of rendezvous, on the 4th of April, where the New-Hampshire corps had arrived four days before; but the Connecticut forces did not join them till the 25th. The Rhode-Island men were of no service, not arriving till the business was done.—Whilst the preparations for this expedition were carrying on, Mr. Shirley, sensible of the little probability there was of success, without a respectable naval force, dispatched an express to Commodore Warren, who was then on the West-India station, acquainting him with the proposed descent on Louisbourg, and soliciting assistance. The express returned the day before the fleet sailed from Nantasket, and brought a negative answer from the Commodore, who did not chuse to be concerned in the affair, because it originated in the province without orders from England. This disagreeable intelligence the Governor concealed from all but the General and Brigadier Waldo (the next in command), for fear of discouraging the men; and they sailed in hopes, that, though they should not find themselves equal to the reduction of Louisbourg, they



the assistance of a fleet under Commodore Warren, the place was reduced, and surrendered on the 17th of June.

In they should at least regain Canso. Soon after the above mentioned express left the West-Indies, to return with the Commodore's answer to Governor Shirley, the Hind sloop brought orders from England, to Mr. Warren to sail to Boston, in order to concert measures with Mr. Shirley for his Majesty's service. In his passage he was informed, that the fleet had sailed for Canso; and having met with a schooner, he sent her to Boston, with notice to Mr. Shirley that he was proceeding to Canso, and with orders for such ships as might be in those seas to join him. Hence it was that the Eltham man of war, of 40 guns, was secured; for though she was actually under sail with the main fleet, when an express arrived at Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire, with the Commodore's orders, yet the Captain sent his convoy into port again, and repaired to Canso, where he arrived on the 23d, as did also, soon afterwards, the Commodore himself, to the unspeakable joy of the army, in the Superb of 60 guns, with the Launceston and Mermaid, of 40 guns each. After a short consultation the ships of force sailed to cruize before Louisbourg; and the forces landed at Chapeau-Rouge-bay the 30th of April, with very little opposition. The enemy discovered the transports early in the morning, which was the first intimation they received of the design against them. Next morning 400 men marched, behind hills, round to the north-east harbour, setting all the houses and storehouses on fire, until they approached within a mile of the grand battery. The thick smoke from the storehouses, which contained various kinds of combustible commodities, prevented the enemy from discovering the number of men who were coming against them; but suspecting them to be the greatest party of the army, they abandoned the fort, cannon, and shot, to the English, depriving them of the powder only, which they threw into a well. This success so much exceeded the expectations of the English, that when an advanced party of them (about 20 in number) came up to the battery, and saw no appearance of the enemy, they were apprehensive of some plot, and declined entering, (as it is said) till a Cape-Cod Indian had summoned up courage to go in alone, and discovered the real state of the fort, time enough however, to exclude the French, who were returning to re-possess it. The siege commenced with a very laborious operation, the men being obliged to drag their cannon, mortars, shot, &c. through a morass for near two miles. From the grand battery a constant fire, with 42 pounders, was kept up for some time on the town, and did much damage to the houses. The English soldiers had no notion of making regular approaches. "When they heard Mr. Battide's proposals

In 1746, the French, full of revenge for the loss of Louisbourg, sent a very powerful fleet into the North-American seas, with a view of recovering that fortress, reducing Nova-Scotia, Boston, &c. and laying waste the English colonies from thence to Georgia.

proposals for pignage and armements, they made merry with the terms, and went on, void of art, in their own natural way," taking advantage of the night. By the 20th of May, five false batteries were opened; and soon after another on the light-house point. In the mean time, the men of war were cruising off the harbour; and on the 18th of May the Mermaid fell in with a French man of war, of 64 guns, with 560 men on board, and all kinds of stores for the garrison. As the Mermaid was of inferior force, the Captain thought it prudent, by a pretended flight, to seduce the Vigilant (which was the name of the French ship) amongst the other cruizers:—he succeeded, and thus that succour fell into the hands of the English, which, had it reached the place of its destination, (as, but for the men of war, it certainly must have done) would, no doubt, have put an end to all their hopes of reducing Louisbourg at that time. The Princess Mary, of 68 guns, and Hector of 40 guns, having unexpectedly arrived at Boston, from England, were sent to join the Commodore, agreeable to his orders, which they did on the 22d, so that now a design began to be in contemplation of forcing the harbour, and making an attack with the ships. On June 10, arrived also the Chester, of 50 guns, and, on the 12th, the Canterbury and Sunderland, of 60 guns each, from England, in consequence of dispatches sent by Governor Shirley, giving an account of the expedition. The Commodore had now 12 ships of force; and it is said to have been determined to make a general attack, both by sea and land, on the 18th. The French seem to have been in expectation of it, and, from the execution done by the forces on shore, unwilling to stand it; for on the 15th they sent out a flag of truce to the General, requesting a cessation of hostilities, that they might the better consider of proposals for capitulating. Next morning they sent terms on which they were willing to surrender, but they were such as both the General and Commodore could not approve of; and therefore they offered others to the French in their room. These were accepted, and on the 17th the place was given up.—The expence incurred by the Massachusetts in this service, was afterwards repaid them by parliament, which voted the sum of 180,000*l.* for that purpose: nevertheless, Louisbourg was restored to the French by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

The

The country was much alarmed; but the French armament met with such a succession of ill-fortune and distress, as rendered their design abortive.—On the other hand, the conquest of Canada was meditated in England, and the extirpation of the French from all North-America; for which purpose the colonies raised men in the following proportions: New-Hampshire 500; Massachusetts 3500; Rhode-Island 300; Connecticut 1000; New-York 1600; New-Jerseys 500; Maryland 300; Virginia 100; Pennsylvania 400;—in all 8200: they continued in pay till Sept. 1747; but, to their great surprize, no fleet nor assistance arrived from England to make the attempt. The reason, probably, was a prospect of peace, which was re-established in 1748.

A war with the Indians, which was a natural consequence of a war with the French, broke out in 1744; but the English suffered less now than formerly; and peace was renewed with them in 1749.

This year is principally remarked by the abolishing bills of credit\* in the province

\* For several years after the first emission of them, the government defrayed the public charges of the province by fresh bills of credit; and as long as the sum was small, silver continued the measure,

## 142 · NEW-ENGLAND.

of Massachusetts-bay, by an act of Assembly. This was effected, chiefly, by means of 180,000*l.* sterling, which sum had been voted by parliament, as a reimbursement to the Massachusetts of their expences in the reduction of Louisbourg, and which was applied towards the redemption of the bills then outstanding, amounting to 2,200,000*l.* nominal value. Those which remained unredeemed, were drawn in by a tax. Hereupon, silver of sterl. alloy, at 6*s.* 8*d.* the ounce, in payments in bullion, or milled dollars at 6*s.* each, became the lawful money of the province. Nevertheless, bills of credit were soon afterwards revived†.

measure, and bills retained their value. When an augmentation of expences succeeded the Canada expedition in 1711, the bills likewise encreased; but in a proportionate degree the silver and gold forsook the country. Hence, in 1714, bills, to the amount of 50,000*l.* and, in 1716, 100,000*l.* were issued, and lent, on land security, to the inhabitants, payable within a certain period, during which they were to be considered as money. When no more silver and gold remained, and the bills were become the sole instrument of commerce, pounds, shillings, and pence, existed in idea, only; so that for near 40 years, the currency continued in much the same state "as if 100,000*l.* had been stamped in pieces of leather, or paper of various denominations, and declared to be the money of the government, without any other sanction than this, that, when there should be taxes to pay, the treasury would receive this sort of money, and that every creditor should be obliged to receive it from his debtor." Surely, such a medium could not but depreciate in value, and that enormously. In 1702, 6*s.* 8*d.* was equal to an ounce of silver; but, in 1749, when the bills were abolished, the ounce was estimated at 5*s.* † In 1751, an act of parliament passed to restrain and regulate the paper-money of the four New-England provinces.

Governor



Governor Shirley returned to England in the latter end of the year 1749, and, in Jan. 1750, he, and William Mildmay, Esq. were appointed commissaries to adjust, with France, all differences relative to America, then subsisting between the two crowns; but after an abode of two years at Paris, Mr. Shirley was thoroughly convinced, by the chicanery, delays, and evasions of the French Court, that no permanent accommodation was intended on their part. He therefore returned to England; and thence to his government.

After this period the history of New-England becomes blended with that of the other colonies, as the depredations of the French, threatening their general extirpation, induced one common cause of self-defence amongst them.—So soon as the year 1754, that treacherous people had commenced hostilities on the back of all the English North-American settlements, by erecting a line of forts, within 20 and 30 miles distance of each other, upon the lakes and rivers, from Canada to the Mississippi, invading the southern colonies, cutting off all intercourse with the Indians in those parts, and instigating them to join in their encroachments: and as they had in like manner

manner seized the greatest part of the province of Nova-Scotia, a body of 2000 men were generously raised by the Massachusetts, to assist in dislodging them, which was accomplished the next year, under Lieut. Col. (now General) Monckton.

With a view of checking the career of the French, whose hostile proceedings (though no war was declared) rendered it necessary to take the field, the British ministry ordered Halket's and Dunbar's regiments of foot to embark for America, and General Braddock was appointed Generalissimo. Orders were also given for raising two American regiments, to be commanded by Sir William Pepperell and Mr. Shirley. — General Braddock marched towards Fort Du Quebec, and arrived within 10 miles of it on the 8th of July, 1755. The next day, about noon, as he was advancing in a manner unpardonably careless, he suddenly received a general fire upon his front, and along his left flank, from an invisible enemy; so artfully were they concealed behind trees and bushes. In an instant, a pannick and confusion seized the regulars, who, being strangers to that mode of assault, precipitately gave ground, and would, most probably,

probably, have been cut off, had not the Provincials advanced alone amongst the surrounding woods, and covered them. The General, with a few officers, kept his ground, endeavouring by his example, entreaties, and commands, to rally his men; nor when he found all in vain, could he be prevailed upon to quit his dangerous situation. At length, however, he was conveyed away by Lieut.-Colonel (now General) Gage, and another officer, after having had no less than five horses shot under him, and received a musket-ball through his right arm and lungs, of which wound he died within four days. The English lost, in this action, 700 men, 10 pieces of cannon, ammunition, baggage, &c. Sir Peter Halket fell at the head of his regiment, on the first fire. The French say, they lost no more than 400, of whom the greatest part were Indians.

In the mean time, 6000 men, besides Indians, raised by the Government of Massachusetts-bay, Connecticut, New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island, and New-York, had rendezvoused at Albany, and marched from thence on expeditions against Niagara and Crown-Point. In the latter end of August, General

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Johnson

Johnson encamped, with the troops destined against Crown-Point, at the south end of Lake George, where, on Sept. 8, he was attacked by the enemy, who had just before been reinforced with a large body of fresh troops from France, under the Baron Dieskau. Gen. Johnson had secured his camp with a breast-work of trees; and the action was hot and bloody, continuing from between 11 and 12 o'clock, till 4 in the afternoon, when the enemy were put to flight, with great slaughter. The English had 130 killed, 94 wounded, and six missing. Among the former were the Colonels Williams and Titcomb, Major Ashley; and the Captains Ingersal, Puter, Ferral, Stoddert, McGinnes, and Stevens, together with old Hendrick, the great Mohawk sachem. Among the wounded were General Johnson himself in the thigh, Major Nichols, and two Captains. — The enemy had near ten thousand men killed, amongst whom were the Major-General, (the same who defeated Gen. Braddock in 1755,) and the greater part of their chief officers. Baron de Dieskau, who commanded the French regulars, was dangerously wounded, and also was one of about 30 prisoners. Notwith-

standing



standing this defeat, the enemy, through the late reinforcement, were too strong at Crown-Point, and the season too far advanced, for the English to proceed against them with success\*.

Through various delays, the corps which was appointed for the reduction of Niagara, under General Shirley, did not arrive at Oswego before the end of August, when they found themselves so badly furnished with provisions, that it was unanimously resolved, in a council of war, to defer the attempt till the next year. Mr. Shirley, therefore, leaving a strong body, under Colonel Mercer, to garrison Oswego, and to complete some additional works he had begun there, marched on the 24th of Oct. on his return to Albany.

In 1756 (the year war was declared), two more regiments were sent to America from England, under the command of General Abercrombie, who was to be followed by Lord Loudon as Commander in Chief: but his Lordship's arrival there being procrastinated beyond expectation, the English army wasted the summer in inactivity, of which the

\* General Johnson was created a Baronet for this service, and rewarded by Parliament with a present of 5000*l*.

French failed not to avail themselves. The enterprizing Marquis de Montcalm, with 1300 regulars, 1700 Canadians, and a considerable number of Indians, laid siege to Oswego. Colonel Mercer made the best defence in his power; but being unfortunately killed by a cannon-ball, the garrison, consisting of Shirley's and Pepperell's regiments, and part of Schuyler's militia, in all 1600 men, surrendered themselves prisoners of war. The English lost also 121 pieces of cannon, 14 brass mortars, 23,000 wt. of powder, 8000 wt. of lead and ball, 2950 bullets, and a great quantity of bombs, grenades, fuzes, and provisions. The French had but four men killed, (the chief engineer one,) and 20 wounded. They demolished all the works.

When at length Lord Loudon joined the army, it was too late in the year to undertake any offensive measure against the enemy. He, therefore, applied himself to the defence of the country during winter, and brought the several colonies to act with harmony and steadiness, which some of them had failed to do before.

Early in the year 1757 the French met with a check from the garrison of Fort William

William-Henry, upon which they made no less than five furious assaults in vain. But a project of the English proved its destruction in August following.

An expedition had been concerted against Louisbourg, in consequence of which Lord Loudon embarked, June 19, at New-York, with 6000 men, for Halifax, where he was to join Admiral Holburne, with a fleet and reinforcements. The Admiral did not arrive there till July 9, after which near a month was spent in exercising the men. By this delay the French had an opportunity of acquiring such powerful reinforcements, that, though the fleet at length sailed from Halifax, with an intent of prosecuting the undertaking, it was thought advisable to desist, on receiving intelligence, by letters found on board a packet-boat (that perhaps designedly fell in the way), of the great strength of the enemy, but which no doubt was much exaggerated.

Lord Loudon, having drawn the troops from the frontiers, Monsieur Montcalm renewed his attack on Fort William, which had so bravely beat him off before. The garrison again stood firm, under Col. Monro, for some time; but, there being no prospect of succour,

without which it was impossible to hold out against so great a force, were obliged to capitulate on the 9th of August, on honourable terms; nevertheless, to the eternal disgrace of the French general, the Indians in his army were suffered to murder and scalp 1300 of them, besides women and children. The fort was demolished.

In the year 1758 extraordinary preparations were made by Government for carrying on the war with vigour. An army of 17,000 men were to open a passage into Canada by the reduction of Crown-Point, and another corps of 8000 to drive the French from the Ohio country; whilst Admiral Boscawen and General Amherst undertook the conquest of Cape-Breton. General Abercrombie superintended Lord Loudon in the command of the forces in America, and took the conduct of the expedition against Crown-Point upon himself, but was defeated at Ticonderoga.

The

This was heroically accomplished; but comes not within our detail, as the Americans had no share in that achievement, nor was it immediately connected with the operations on the Continent. With 7000 regulars, and 16,000 Provincials, he embarked on Lake George, in 900 batteaux, and 135 whale-boats, and sailed on July 5 for Ticonderoga, which fort it was necessary to take in order to approach Crown-Point. They landed and marched towards it the next morning. In their way, the most advanced party fell in with a body of the enemy in an ambush; and, though



## NEW-ENGLAND.

The expedition to the Ohio country was committed to the care of Brigadier-general Forbes, who happily surprized Fort Du Quesne, and reduced the Indians to the obedience of the English.

The plan of operations for the year 1759 was as follows: General Wolfe, with a considerable body of forces, was to proceed up the river St. Lawrence against Quebec; there to be

though they were put to flight, it was not without the loss of the brave Lord Howe, who was the first man killed, being shot through the breast with a musket-ball. For want of proper guides, it was the 9th of July in the evening before they drew near Ticonderoga. The enemy lay entrenched before the fort, in a camp so strongly fortified, and of such difficult access, that it was in vain the English repeatedly attempted, on the 8th, to force it; so that, with the loss of 500 men killed, and near 1400 wounded, General Abercrombie thought proper to retire precipitately and repeat the lake.

He marched from Philadelphia on the 30th day of June, proceeding towards Fort Du Quesne with all the caution which the misfortune attending Braddock's rashness may be supposed to have inspired. When he arrived at Ray's Town, 90 miles E. of Fort Du Quesne, he detached Col. Fouquet, with 2000 men, to secure the post of Lysal-Henning, and to reconnoitre Fort Du Quesne. Fouquet secured the post, but sent 800 men only, under Major Grant, to reconnoitre the fort, though at the distance of 40 miles.

As soon, therefore, as the enemy discovered that small party near them, a body large enough to surround them, marched out, and fell upon them. The English, with bayonets fixed, closed with the enemy, and stood their ground for three hours; but, being unsupported, were at length borne down by the fresh accession of strength their antagonists received from the garrison, and made a disorderly retreat, leaving their commander a prisoner. Brigadier Forbes hastened with all prudent dispatch to retrieve this disaster; and, suddenly appearing before Fort Du Quesne, struck the French with such a panic, that they dismantled the fort and fled, on Nov. 18th. The next day Forbes took possession of it; and, having repaired the works, gave it the name of Pittsburg, in honour of the Great Commoner then at the head of affairs. The Brigadier died soon after at Philadelphia, much lamented.

joined by another corps which General Amherst was ordered to march over land from New York, reducing Ticonderoga and Crown-Point in his way: whilst a body, under the command of Generals Prideaux and Johnson, attacked Niagara and Montreah.

A strong fleet, consisting of twenty-one sail of the line, and commanded by Admiral Saunders, with 7000 land forces, regulars and Provincials, under Major General James Wolfe, appeared before Quebec the latter end of June. As the French expected this visit, they had prepared themselves accordingly by collecting their forces together, to the amount of 12,000 men, exclusive of Indians, and adding to the very great natural strength of the place and adjacent country, all the artificial security of intrenchments and fortifications, under the direction of the experienced Montcalm.

It was General Wolfe's chief aim to draw the enemy out of their very advantageous entrenchment, but every stratagem meditated for that purpose was baffled by insurmountable difficulties arising from the nature of the country: he was obliged, therefore, to take the bold resolution of attacking them in their entrench-

retrenchments. Accordingly an attempt was resolved to be made on July 31, on the enemy's defile near Montmorency river; but miscarried chiefly through some of the boats grounding as they were proceeding with troops to the place of attack, and thro' the misconduct of 13 companies of grenadiers, who, instead of forming themselves into four distinct bodies, and making the onset sustained by another corps, rashly ran on towards the intrenchments in the greatest disorder, and without their appointed support. So much time was lost by the boats grounding, and the irregularity of the grenadiers, that, the day beginning to close, the General was obliged to desist from this attempt.

After this miscarriage, General Wolfe left no manoeuvres untried above the town to induce Montcalm to quit his strong camp; and at length succeeded in the following manner.

Early in the morning of the 13th of September, a part of the army, accompanied by the General himself, and Brigadiers Monkton and Murray, were embarked in flat-bottomed boats: they fell down the river with the tide, undiscovered by the enemy, and landed within a league of Cape Diamond, an hour before

fore break of day, the ships, with admirable skill, preserving a communication with them.

The troops had a very steep, high shore to ascend, thickly covered with boughs and stumps of trees, and guarded by Canadians and Indians, who fired upon them: nevertheless, they scrambled up by the help of the boughs, and, dispersing the enemy, secured the landing of the remainder of the troops, which was committed to the care of Brigadier Townshend.

Soon after the whole army was landed, General Wolfe had the satisfaction of perceiving that Montcalm had quitted his strong holds, and was crossing Charles river with the apparent design of giving him battle; whereupon the General immediately formed his line, and advanced to meet him. Some bushes in the enemy's front were lined with 1500 Indians and Canadians, the best marksmen in the French army: these kept up an irregular, but galling fire on the English, who, notwithstanding, reserved their own till they were within 40 yards of the enemy's main body, which then sorely felt its dreadful effects, and, not being able to withstand the shock of the English, who soon after rushed on with their bayonets,

were



were forced to seek refuge by a precipitate retreat to the town.

Glorious as this victory was, it was dearly obtained, not on account of the number of men slain, which were only 57, but because one of that number, after receiving three wounds, was the General himself, in whom concentrated every qualification of a true hero, and who was, consequently, the admiration, not only of the soldiery, but of the English at large. The wounded amounted to 588, among whom was Brigadier-general Monekton, the second in command, who received a musket-ball a few minutes after Wolfe was carried off: so that at the close of the action the command devolved on Brigadier Townshend. The loss of the French was supposed to be 1500 men. Montcalm, their general, was killed in the action, and their second in command died on board the English fleet. — The siege was commenced by General Townshend, with the conduct of an experienced officer; and on the 18th the garrison capitulated, marching out with the honours of war, in order to be sent to France. The English troops took possession; 3000 of whom were left to maintain the place, under the command of Brigadier Murray.

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It was well the heroism of Wolfe sunk not under his disappointment in not being joined before Quebec by General Amherst, according to the plan of operations before mentioned. Through a variety of unforeseen delays, it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July before the latter could get his forces across Lake George, and appear before Ticonderoga, where Abercrombie had been repulsed the preceding year: but the fort was now approached with such firmness, precaution, and skill, that the enemy, after damaging the works, abandoned it. Col. Townshend, however, lost his life by a cannon-ball, as he was reconnoitring. This acquisition was followed by that of Crown-Point, which the French (whatever might be the reason for it) also deserted; even before the English army had moved from Ticonderoga. The General immediately sent 200 rangers to secure the post, and soon after followed with the main body, and there he wintered, the season not permitting him to proceed further.

General Prideaux having been joined in due time by the Provincials, and 1100 Indians under Sir William Johnson, the expedition against Niagara was undertaken by them with

success.

success. By the 19th of July they were advanced within 140 yards of the covered way, but a sad accident now happened. General Prideaux, through the carelessness of his own gunner, was unfortunately killed, by a cannon shot, as he was walking in the trenches. Sir William Johnson immediately acquainted General Amherst with this misfortune, who dispatched Brigadier-general Gage to take the command; but, before he arrived, Sir William had compelled the garrison to surrender themselves prisoners of war, having previously intercepted and defeated a reinforcement of near 2000 men, on which the French much depended. The English took possession on the 25th of July.

Early in the year 1760, 12,600 French (regulars and Canadians), with 400 Indians, under the command of the Chevalier de Levis, made an attempt to recover Quebec, and worsted Governor Murray, whose corps was reduced by death and sickness to 3000 men, in an action on the 28th of April; nevertheless, on the arrival of a British naval force before the town, the enemy raised the siege in the night of the 16th of May with such precipitation, as to leave 34 cannon, 6 mortars,

tars, all their field equipage, provisions, &c. &c. behind them. General Amherst also resumed the operations; he was obliged to leave incomplete the preceding year. On the 10th of August he embarked at Oswego; and having taken Swegatchie on the 17th, L'Isle Royale on the 23d, and L'Isle Perrot on Sept. 4, he landed and encamped before Montreal on the 6th. The next morning, the Governor, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, sent proposals of capitulation to him, which were returned with such alterations as the Marquis would fain have had retracted; but the English General was resolute, and the garrison were forced on the 8th to lay down their arms, and engage not to serve that war. To resist would have been madness; for, during the negotiation, General Murray arrived with his troops from Quebec, and Col. Haviland, with his corps, from the Isle aux Noix, as if to be witnesses of this *coup de grâde* to Gallic power in Canada, which country was entirely ceded to Great-Britain at the peace concluded in 1763.

During this war, the following sums were voted by Parliament to the Colonies, towards reimbursing their expences.

In	1759,	—	—	—	115,000
	1757,	—	—	—	50,000
March,	1760,	—	—	—	200,000
Jan.	1761,	—	—	—	200,000
					565,000



We are now come to the period which should present to our readers <sup>view</sup> the melancholy scene of those unhappy differences which have arisen between the Mother Country and the chief of her American Colonies; but they are too recent and well-known to need recital, and are likewise beyond the compass and design of our undertaking. We shall only observe, that we deeply lament the rise and progress of this unnatural contest, and sincerely wish that our King and legislators may be inspired with wisdom, in aid of their councils, so that they may be able to avert the impending ruin which threatens us on all sides, and restore peace and commerce to Great Britain and her Colonies, upon a solid and permanent foundation.

We shall, therefore, conclude this epitome of the history of New-England with a few particulars relative to the inhabitants, religion, trade, &c. of this country, before the commencement of the present hostilities.

The inhabitants of Massachusetts-bay are computed to amount to 400,000 souls, 80,000 of whom are capable of bearing arms. They are become much more liberal in sentiment than they were formerly, when all their

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moral notions were derived from the books of Moses. The gentry of both sexes are by no means destitute of good-nature and hospitality; but these good qualities are always accompanied with such an air of stiffness and reserve, as cannot fail to mar the pleasing effects which otherwise would result from them. The women are well-featured, with fair complexions, but have bad teeth. The lower class of people are equally formal, yet inquisitive, in regard to strangers, to a degree of impertinence scarcely to be borne with\*.

The established religion is a refinement upon that of the Independents, the professors of it styling themselves Congregationalists: however, there are great numbers of people of other persuasions, particularly of the church

\* The following account of a remarkable custom in vogue amongst some of them is given by a writer of credit, who was in Massachusetts-bay in 1760:—"A very extraordinary method of courtship is sometimes practised amongst the lower people of this province, and is called *Tarrying*. When a man is enamoured of a young woman, and wishes to marry her, he proposes the affair to her parents (without whose consent no marriage in this colony can take place): if they have no objection, they allow him to tarry with her one night, in order to make his court to her. At their usual time the old people retire to bed, leaving the young ones to settle matters as they can; who, after having sat up as long as they think proper, get into bed together also, but without pulling off their under-garments, to prevent scandal. If the parties agree, it is all very well; the banns are published, and they are married without delay: if not, they part, and possibly never see each other again; unless, which is an accident that seldom happens, the forsaken fair one prove pregnant, and then the man is obliged to marry her, under pain of excommunication."

of England, whose moderate principles gain ground daily: yet in Boston there are 13 or 14 meeting-houses, and only three churches.

The Massachusetts imported \* dry goods from Great-Britain, money from Holland, slaves from Africa, and sugars, coffee, and molasses, from the West-Indies. With the money they paid their creditors in England; the sugars they exported to Holland; the rum to Africa; the slaves, lumber, and provisions, to the West-Indies; and the dry goods to the neigh-

\* The trade of the Colonies in general is laid under such restraint by Parliament as seems necessary for the advantage of Great-Britain. They are obliged by law to land Spanish and Portugal wines, &c. in England, subject to duties for re-shipping for America. The exportation of hats, or woollen goods, made in the Colonies, is prohibited, even from one to the other; and they are forbid also to erect plating or slitting mills, or steel furnaces, to secure their application to the mother-country for the manufactures which require them.—The *enumerated goods*, of the growth, produce, or manufacture, of the British Colonies, viz. tobacco, cotton-wool, indigo, ginger, fustic or other dying woods, melasses, hemp, copper-ore, beaver-skins or other furs, pitch, tar, turpentine, masts, yards, bowsprits, sugar, rice, coffee, pimento, cocoanuts, whale-fins, raw silk hides and skins, pot-ashes, pearl-ashes, —are not to be laden on-board any vessel, until the master, with one surety, give bond that the said goods shall be landed in some British colony, or in Great-Britain, except rice, which may be exported to the Southward of Cape Finisterre, and to foreign plantations in America, on payment of the duties, and observing certain regulations prescribed by law; also sugar, to the Southward of Cape Finisterre, in like manner. Nor are the *non-enumerated goods*, viz. all other goods and commodities of the growth, produce, or manufacture, of the British Colonies, to be laden on-board any vessel, until bond is given by the master, and one surety, that the said goods shall not be carried to any part of Europe Northward of Cape Finisterre, unless to Great-Britain or Ireland, except *lumber*, which may be landed in the Madecras, the Western Islands, or any part of Europe Southward of Cape Finisterre, on giving bond as above,

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bouring colonies. Add to this traffic, that they built annually a great number of vessels, which they loaded with salt-fish, whale-bone, fish-oil, pitch, and tar; and, having disposed of the cargoes, sold the ships likewise. They have a few other manufactures, of which spirits, iron, and beaver-hats, are the chief. Throughout the colonies they attempt to make woollens; but whilst their wool continues as coarse and as short as at present, they will never bring them to any tolerable degree of perfection.—Here was little paper-money\*.

The people of Connecticut, who amount to about 192,000†, are remarkably industrious, and, in proportion to their extent of country, export great quantities of lumber, so far as that means barrel and hoghead staves and heading, hoops, elift-boards, and shingles of cedar, and the markets in some of the other colonies are much indebted to this for their supply of butter, beef, mutton, pork, wheat, and Indian corn. The state of religion is

\* There is a mint at Boston, which was erected in 1652, for coining shillings, six-pences, and three-pences, to prevent fraud in money; but this proceeding making one of the complaints of Charles II. against the Colony, it was discontinued.

† The estimates given in this publication of the number of souls in the several provinces of New-England, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas, were made in Congress, in September, 1774.



much the same here as in the former province.

New-Hampshire supplied the royal navy with masts, yards, spars, and oars, and consequently was of no mean assistance to Great-Britain in maintaining her sovereignty of the sea. The inhabitants are estimated at 150,000, and are of divers religions, that of the Congregationalists being established. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel have two missionaries there. Masts, spars, &c. ships (to the amount of 200 a year), cattle, fish, &c. are their chief exports. The paper currency is extremely bad, at 2500 per cent. discount.

No religion is established among the inhabitants of Rhode-Island, but all are tolerated. The Society send four missionaries. The private people are said to be cunning, selfish, and much given to illicit trading, the magistrates, partial and corrupt, which is owing to the democratical constitution of the province, whereby they are totally dependent on the populace. The number of the inhabitants is about 59,678, and their commerce is much the same as the Massachusetts, except that they build few or no ships, and export very little

164

NEW-YORK.

salt-fish: but their horses are much coveted by the other colonies. They have very few manufactures; sperma-ceti candles is one of the chief. Their paper currency is as bad as that of New-Hampshire.

The value of British and India commodities annually imported into New-England was nearly 396,000l. and the exports to Britain was estimated at 370,500l. The trade of this country was greater formerly; but two capital branches, viz. ship-building and the fishery, have been upon the decline for some years.

OF NEW-YORK.

THE celebrated Hudson (of whom we have before spoken in our account of New-Britain) was the first European who explored this part of North-America; which he did in the year 1608, discovering and giving his own name to the great river that still bears it. By his means the Dutch got footing here; and though their plantations were destroyed by Sir Samuel Argol about the year 1613, they, nevertheless, not only kept possession of the country, but also re-established their settlements, built

a city which they called New-Amsterdam, and became a flourishing colony under a Governor. King James I. complained of this usurpation to the States, who disclaimed the proceeding, ascribing it solely to their West-India Company: whereupon James, calling the country New-Albion, sent Edward Langdon thither as Governor, to whom the intruders thought proper to submit; but during the civil wars of Charles I. which afforded them too favourable an opportunity, they resumed their own authority, and afterwards over-run the neighbouring territories, since called New-Jersey and Counties on Delaware, but then occupied by the Swedes, who were constrained to submit to them in 1655. To these territories the Dutch then gave the common appellation of Nova Belgia, or the New Netherlands, and maintained their authority in them till the year 1664, when a war beginning to break out, they were surrendered to a force sent against them by Charles II. On this event, the capital city of New-Amsterdam exchanged its name for New-York, in honour of James, Duke of York, to whom Charles had granted the New Netherlands: and these countries were confirmed to the

English by the peace of Breda, in 1667, in  
liege of Surinam, which the Dutch had taken  
from them.

In the war of 1672, the Dutch recovered  
the New Netherlands; but, being restored  
by the peace concluded at Westminster in  
Feb. 1673-4, they were again granted to the  
Duke of York, who disposed of New Jersey,  
but retained the country of New-York to him-  
self, which consequently vested in the Crown  
on his accession to the sovereignty, and subse-  
quent abdication. It has since continued a  
royal province, the King appointing the Go-  
vernor and Council, and the people chusing  
a House of Representatives, which they do  
every seven years. In them is vested the en-  
tire legislative power, each branch having a  
negative: their laws, however, must have the  
King's approbation, and not be repugnant to  
those of Great Britain.

Many Negroes are imported into this pro-  
vince. The whole number of the people is  
supposed to be 250,000, great part of whom  
are descended from the Dutch who remained  
in it after its subjection to the English; but  
: here are also numbers of different origins, as  
may be inferred from the following account

of



of the places of worship in the city of New-York; 3 for persons of the church of England; 3 for Dutch Presbyterians; 2 for English Presbyterians; 1 for Scotch Presbyterians; 2 for German Calvinists; 1 the Lutherans, French refugees, Quakers, Baptists, Moravians, Methodists, and Jews, have 1 each sect. In the whole province there are six churches, the religion of the church of England being established throughout. A fine college has lately been erected, and is called King's college.

Most of the inhabitants of New-York are traders; and if it be possible to give so mixed a people any general characteristics, theirs are industry and frugality: nevertheless, the genteeler sort amuse themselves with balls and sleighing expeditions in the winter, and form fishing parties, and make excursions into the country, in the summer. On East river, near New-York, are several houses, pleasantly situated: here, once or twice a week, thirty or forty ladies and gentlemen have turtle-feasts, fishing and amusing themselves till the evening; when they return home in Italian chaises\*, a gentleman and a lady in each. About three

\* The carriage most in fashion in this and other parts of America, except Virginia, where coaches, drawn by six horses, are chiefly used.

miles from New-York there is a bridge, over which as they pass is a part of the etiquette for the gentleman to salute his charge; whence the bridge is called **Saluting Bridge**. Long Island is covered with the villas and country houses of the wealthy.

The exports of this colony, which are considerable, consist chiefly of grain, flour, pork, skins, furs, pig-iron, lumber, and staves. Those to Great Britain only, before the present disturbances, were said to amount annually to £26,000. and the imports from the same were not less than £31,000. Their most material manufactures are, a small quantity of cloth, some linen, hats, shoes, and other wearing apparel; glass, wampum, refined sugars, and rum; they also build some ships. The difference of exchange between currency and bills is from 70 to 80 per cent.

The money of the Indians. It is made of the clam-shell, which is like a thick cypher-shell, and purple and white within. When clipped to a proper size, it is drilled, and afterwards ground smooth, and polished. As a very small part of the shell is purple, the wampum of this colour is by much the most valuable. George, when the Dutch, in 1673, recovered the country; however, it being restored to the English in Feb. 1673-4, fresh grants passed, and Oath from the King to the Duke of York, and afterwards from him to the former proprietors;

On **NEW JERSEY**.  
 The first European settlers in this tract of North America were Swedes, but on their formal surrender of it to the Dutch in 1655, the latter called it, together with New York, the New Netherlands. We have already related in our account of New York, that the territories so named were reduced by Charles II. in 1664. On this event, the Duke of York, (afterwards James II.) to whom the same had been previously granted, disposed of that portion we are now treating of, to Lord Berkeley of Stratton and Sir Geo. Carteret, from which last gentleman it received the name of New-Jersey, his family estate lying in the island of Jersey. The New Netherlands were ratified to the English by the treaty of Breda in 1667, and Lord Berkeley assigned his share in New-Jersey over to others; and these new proprietors had agreed upon a partition with Sir George, when the Dutch, in 1673, recovered the country: however, it being restored to the English in Feb. 1673-4, fresh grants passed, first from the King to the Duke of York, and afterwards from him to the former proprietors;

tors; whereupon New-Jersey was divided into two portions, denominated East and West Jersey, Sir George possessing the former. Both districts in time devolved into many hands, and various dissensions and disturbances sprung up; nevertheless, the proprietors, though not without temporary interruptions, maintained their authority till the year 1703; when, it having been judged by them expedient to surrender their right of governing to Queen Anne, the two proprietary became united in one royal government; the Governor and Council being nominated by the Crown, and the Representatives by the people. Each branch has a negative. The General Assemblies are held at Perth-Amboy and Burlington alternately, at the latter of which places the Governor generally resides.

There is no established religion in this province; but the Society have six missionaries here; and, amidst the different persuasions, the church of England gains proselytes daily. Here are 22 churches, 57 English and Scotch Presbyterian meeting-houses, 22 Dutch, 39 Quakers, 22 Baptists, 7 Lutheran, 1 Moravian, 1 Separatists, and 1 Rogereens meeting-house.

The



The New-Jersey-men are truly gentlemen-farmers, living upon their estates; and are good-natured, hospitable, and of a liberal turn of mind. There are supposed to be 120,000 souls in this province, (Negroes included, of whom there is a greater or less number in all the colonies).

New-Jersey, though esteemed the garden of North-America, has no foreign trade, the inhabitants selling its productions to the merchants of Philadelphia and New-York, of whom they take European articles in return. Their paper is at about 70 per cent. discount, but in very good repute.

## OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ADMIRAL Sir William Penn, in consideration of his national services, and (as some say) of a debt due to him from the Crown, obtained a promise of this country from Charles II. but lived not to see it fulfilled.

After some time, his son, William Penn, the famous Quaker, finding his spiritual brethren harrassed in every part of England on account of their religion, strenuously applied

to

to Court for the grant promised to his father; which, with many solicitations, he obtained in 1681, and purchased the country of the Indians. The slip of land now called the Three Lower Counties on Delaware was not included in the above grant, but purchased by Mr. Penn of James, Duke of York, and the county of Bedford, lying Westward of the mountains on the Ohio, was bought of the Indians known by the name of the Six Nations no longer ago than the year 1768, and settled in 1771.

On being granted, the country received the name of Pennsylvania, in honour of the proprietor, whose excellent character and plan for forming his colony drew after him not only great numbers of Quakers, but also many other persons of different religious persuasions, inasmuch that upwards of 2000 accompanied him on his first going over: and, whether for the sake of religion or commercial advantages, people afterwards continued to flock to him, as well from other nations as England: for civil and religious liberty, in the most liberal sense, was the great foundation of this wise man's institutions; and *Christians*; without exception, were allowed to share

in

A society of 10 ladies and the same number of gentlemen, of the best families in the province, met once a fortnight upon the banks

## PENNSYLVANIA

173

in the government, which is proprietary, and consists of a Governor, appointed, with the King's approbation, by the proprietor, and a House of Representatives chosen by the people. The Three Lower Counties, viz. Newcastle, Suffex, and Kent, have a distinct Assembly and government; for, though the same Governor presides over both, the members of the House of Representatives are different, and are elected solely by these three counties.

Pennsylvania, including the Delaware Counties, is supposed to contain 350,000 souls, of various nations indeed, but with fewer Negroes among them than might be expected. They are not so hospitable to strangers as the generality of the other colonies, but they are frugal, industrious, and the most enterprising of any. The women are gay, very handsome, and much more accomplished than the men. Dancing is here a favourite amusement in winter; and, when snow is upon the ground, another usual diversion is to make sleighing-parties, or to go upon it in sledges. In the summer, parties of pleasure are also formed for recreation in the country, or upon the Schuylkill.

\* A society of 16 ladies and the same number of gentlemen, of the best families in the province, meet once a fortnight upon the banks

No particular religion is established in this province; all sects that believe in God are tolerated, but a fifth part of the inhabitants are Quakers. Twelve clergymen are maintained here by the Society for Propagating the Gospel: some of them are itinerant missionaries. In the city of Philadelphia there are two churches, one Swedish and one Romish chapel, three Quakers meeting-houses, two Presbyterian, one Lutheran, one Dutch Calvinist, one Anabaptist, and one Moravian meeting-house.

Before the present commotions, the people built annually 125 vessels, and exported provisions of all kinds, lumber, hemp, flax, flax-seed, iron, furs, and deer-skins, to the annual amount of 705,500*l.* and the value of their imports from Britain was about 611,000*l.* The difference of exchange between bills and the currency in this province is about 75 per cent. The manufactures are numerous and good: better hats are made here than in Eu-

banks of the Schuylkill, where they have erected a very pleasant room, to dine and drink tea in. A number of pleasant walks are about it; and some wild and rugged rocks, the river, and neighbouring groves, conspire to form a scene at once romantic and beautifully picturesque. The ladies dress in a neat and simple uniform. Boats and fishing-tackle are at hand; and the company delight themselves either with going upon the water, fishing, walking, dancing, singing, &c. &c. as is most agreeable to them.

rope;



ropes; some Irish settlers make good linen  
and Germantown thread stockings are highly  
admired & considerable also are the manufac-  
tures of cordage, linseed oil, starch, myrtle  
wax, spermaceti candles, soap, earthen ware,  
&c. &c.

In the city of Philadelphia there are two  
churches, one Swedish and one Roman Catholic.

Dr. MARYLAND. There are three  
parishes, one Lutheran, one Dutch Reformed,

**RELIGION** of one sort or other ap-  
pears to have been a main spring of Eng-  
lish colonizing in America: New-England it  
has already been shewn, owes its establish-  
ment to the Brownists and the Puritans; and  
Pennsylvania to the Quakers; that of Mary-  
land originated from the Roman Catholics.  
These people being generally disliked towards  
the close of the reign of Charles I. George T.  
Calvert, Lord Baltimore, obtained the pro-  
mise of a grant of this country as an asylum  
for them; but he dying before the patent  
was fully made out, it was finished in the be-  
half of his son, Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, in  
1632. Accordingly, the year following, about  
200 Papists (most of them of reputable fami-  
lies) embarked to take possession of this new  
territory,

territory, to which was given the name of Maryland, in honour of Henrietta-Maria, King Charles's Queen. They purchased the lands of the Indians; and, it is said, that, in the first two years, Lord Baltimore expended 40,000*l.* in transporting people over thither, and furnishing the colony with stores and provisions. Oliver Cromwell deprived Lord Baltimore of his rights, and appointed a new Governor in his room. At the Restoration, Charles, Lord Baltimore, son to Cecilius, obtained a confirmation of the grant, and next year sent over his son Charles as Governor, on whom both the title and estate afterwards devolved, and by whose wise regulations the colony flourished and increased exceedingly. In the reign of James II. it was again in agitation to deprive the Baltimore family of their rights; but the measure was prevented by that Monarch's own troubles. It so far took place, however, at the Revolution, as that they were divested of the power of governing, on account of their being Roman Catholics; but after the family professed the Protestant religion, they were restored to their former authority.

The late Lord Baltimore, who died in 1771, bequeathed

bequeathed his property in Maryland, in tail male, to Henry Harford, Esq; a minor.

A Governor, and Council of 12 persons, under and nominated by the Proprietor (whose power is next to regal), together with a House of Representatives elected by the people, constitute the government of this province at present. The Proprietor claims a negative upon every bill, exclusive of the Governor.

The number of souls in Maryland is estimated at 320,000. The established religion is that of the church of England, to the support of whose clergy every tithable, (that is, every male white, and all Negroes whatsoever, from 16 to 60) in their respective parishes, must contribute 30 lb. of tobacco, whereby some make more than 300l. sterling per annum: nevertheless, there are as many Roman Catholics as Protestants.

Maryland is expressly exempted from taxation by charter. The difference of exchange between paper-money and currency in this province is about 30 per cent.

For particulars respecting the trade of this country, we refer the reader to the following account of Virginia; wherein he will also be

enabled to judge of the people of Maryland by what is said of the Virginians, there being little or no difference between them in point of character.

denominated the London Company, (as we have mentioned in our account of New-Eng-

land), the heads having been induced by

the same means to a small, feeble number.

THE first settlement which the English made on the other side of the vast Atlantic was in this part of the American continent, but not without great toil and difficulty. Several

attempts were made under the directions of

Sir Walter Raleigh, in consequence of letters

patent he obtained in 1584, authorising him

“to possess, plant, and enjoy, for himself and

“such persons as he should nominate, them-

“selves, and their successors, all such lands,

“territories, &c. as they should discover, not

“in the possession of any Christian nation.”

The country was called Virginia, in compli-

ment to the Virgin-Queen Elizabeth; a name

which from thence became common, for a

time, to a large portion of North-America: but

partly from the extreme difficulty of the un-

dertaking, and partly from the inattention paid

to Sir Walter's orders, his endeavours failed;

as did some attempts made, with his permis-

sion, by other persons; the adventurers pe-

rishing



rising either through famine, disease, or the ferocity of the Indians\*. In another enterprize, which was set on foot by a Society incorporated by James I. in 1606,

denominated the London Company, (as we have mentioned in our account of New-England), the people, having been reduced by the same means to a small, feeble number, had, in despair, actually set sail on their return to England in 1610, when, meeting Lord Delaware, in the mouth of Chesapeake-bay, with a Squadron laden with provisions and all necessaries, they were persuaded to disembark again, and renew their endeavours; which being assisted by the Earl's advice, prudence, and winning behaviour, the colony was at length settled, and put on a respectable footing. They built the first town the English had in the New World, which they called James town. The colony increased greatly, and, during the subsequent civil wars in the mother-country, afforded refuge to many of the royalists; and, under the government of Sir William Berkeley, held out for the King, until reduced rather by stratagem than force. As it was the last to submit to the Oliverian

N 2

Yoke,

\* The several attempts of Sir Walter Raleigh were made at places now within the limits of North-Carolina.

yoke, so it was the first to cast it off; and Charles II. was proclaimed King by Sir William in Virginia, even before he was restored in England. About the year 1676, a young lawyer, named Bacon, taking advantage of some discontents which prevailed in the colony, excited the common people to a rebellion, but by his timely natural death tranquility was soon re-established.

At first, the right of jurisdiction over this province was exercised by a Governor and Council only, appointed by the London Company; but in the year 1620 it was thought adviseable to add a third branch, to be composed of Burgesses, elected by the people. In 1626, however, great disorders having arisen through mal-administration, Charles I. dissolved the Company, and took the country and government under his own immediate direction, by appointing the Governor and Council himself; and this constitution has been since preserved, each of the three branches having a negative on all laws proposed, and the King's approbation being necessary to render them permanent. The Governor is generally a nobleman.

The established religion is that of the church

of

of England; and the clergy, who are under the control of a superintendent sent by the Bishop of London, have each a glebe of two or three acres of land, a house, and a salary fixed by law of 16,000 wt. of tobacco, with an allowance of 1700 more for shrinkage. Here are but few Dissenters.

The people in Virginia are computed to be 650,000, a great part of whom are Negroes and other slaves.—We shall speak of them in the words of a Rev. Gentleman, observing, with him, that general characters are always liable to many exceptions.—“The climate and external appearance of the country,” says he, “conspire to make them indolent, easy, and good natured; extremely fond of society, and much given to convivial pleasures. In consequence of this, they seldom shew any spirit of enterprize, or expose themselves willingly to fatigue. Their authority over their slaves renders them vain and imperious, and intire strangers to that elegance of sentiment which is so peculiarly characteristic of refined and polished nations\*. Their ignorance of

N 3

mankind.

\* “A gentleman some years ago travelling upon the frontiers of Virginia, where there are few settlements, was obliged to take up his quarters one evening at a miserable plantation; where, exclusive

## VIRGINIA

manhood, and of learning, exposes them to many errors and prejudices, especially in regard to Indians and Negroes, whom they scarcely consider as of the human species; so it is almost impossible, in cases of violence, or even murder, committed upon these unhappy people, by any of the planters, to have the delinquents brought to justice: for either the grand jury refuse to find the bill, or the petit jury bring in their verdict, not guilty. The display of a character thus constituted will naturally be in acts of extravagance, ostentation, and a disregard of economy.... The women are, upon the whole, rather handsome, though not to be compared with our fair countrywomen in England. They have but few advantages, and consequently are seldom accomplished; this makes them reserved, and unequal to any interesting or refined conversation. They are immoderately fond of dancing. Towards the close of an evening,

exclusive of a Negro or two, the family consisted of a man and his wife, and one daughter about 16 years of age. Being fatigued, he presently desired them to shew him where he was to sleep; accordingly they pointed to a bed in a corner of the room where they were sitting. The gentleman was a little embarrassed; but, being extremely weary, he retired, half undressed himself, and got into bed. After some time the old gentlewoman came to bed to him, after her the old gentleman, and last of all the young lady."

when



when the company are pretty well tired with country-dances, it is usual to dance jigs; a practice originally borrowed, I am informed, from the Negroes\*. Excepting these amusements, and now and then a party of pleasure into the woods to partake of a barbacue, the ladies chiefly spend their time in sewing and taking care of their families: they seldom read, or endeavour to improve their minds; however, they are in general good housewives; and though they have not, I think, quite so much tenderness and sensibility as the English ladies, yet they make as good wives, and as good mothers, as any in the world."

Virginia and Maryland, prior to the civil war now most unhappily prevailing, annually exported into Great-Britain, of tobacco alone, to the value of 768,000*l*. that is, at 8*l*. each, to the number of 96,000 hogsheds. About 13,500 of these served for home consumption, yielding, by a duty of 26*l*. 1*s*. per hogshed, 351,675*l*. to the revenue: the remaining

"\* These dances are without any method or regularity: a gentleman and lady stand up, and dance about the room, one of them retiring, the other pursuing, then perhaps meeting, in an irregular fantastical manner. After some time, another lady gets up, and then the first lady must sit down, she being, as they term it, cut out: the second lady acts the same part which the first did, till somebody cuts her out. The gentlemen perform in the same manner."

82,500 our merchants exported to the different countries of Europe, and returned their value into the kingdom. The benefits of this single branch of commerce, therefore, cannot but strike every one, especially if the additional national advantages be considered, viz: that it employed 330 sail of ships, and was a constant nursery for near 4000 seamen! But this was not all: these provinces traded in other articles, — naval stores, wheat, Indian corn, and iron in pigs and bars, &c. which being added to the tobacco, the whole amount of their exportation to Great-Britain rose to 1,040,000*l.* annually, and in return they took of British manufactures to the value of 865,000*l.*

OF THE CAROLINA'S.

THESE countries, notwithstanding the English right to them derived from Cabot's discovery, were formerly claimed by the Spaniards as part of Florida; which claim they would have extended to the whole continent of America North of Mexico. The lands, however, lay neglected till the year

1565, when a party of French hugonots attempted a settlement, built Charles-Fort at Pont Royal, and called the territory Carolina, in honour of their King (Charles IX). These were massacred by some Spaniards in 1567, and they, in turn, were destroyed by other Frenchmen in 1569, who, nevertheless, dropped their design of settling there. At length, in 1663, the Lords Clarendon, Albemarle, Craven, Berkeley, and Ashley (afterwards Shaftesbury), Sir George Carteret, Sir William Berkeley, and Sir John Colleton, obtained a grant of these territories from Charles II. and, by their united efforts, a colony was founded, and regulated by laws which employed the pen of the great Mr. Locke. The first town built was called Charles-town, after the King's name. The patentees were styled Lords Proprietors, and had a power of conferring such titles of honour as they thought proper, provided they were not the same as were conferred in England. Accordingly, they appointed one of their own number to hold a pre-eminence over the Governor, under the denomination of Palatine, and created a few Landgraves and Caciques, to answer to the nobility of England. — But, notwithstanding

withstanding the extraordinary care taken to form their system of government upon a perfect plan, the exercise of it was attended with the utmost confusion and distraction. Impolitic and oppressive administration in some of the Governors, contention religious and civil amongst the people, added to their quarrels with the Indians, had, by the year 1728, brought the province to the brink of destruction; and the then proprietors sold their interests therein to the Crown for the consideration of 22,500*l.* excepting John, Lord Carteret (afterwards Earl of Granville), who retained his share. On this event, the country was divided into the two districts of North and South Carolina, and put under two distinct royal governments, on the same plan as the others under the King's immediate authority; and harmony being established, both amongst the people, and with the Indians, success and prosperity have since crowned their proceedings.—The established religion is that of the church of England.

The Carolinians live in much the same easy and luxurious manner as the Virginians. The planters are remarkably hospitable towards strangers; and persons who fall into distress through



through bad success or misfortune scarce ever fall of being relieved by their liberality: so that beggary is almost unknown in these parts of the world.

There are supposed to be 300,000 souls in NORTH-CAROLINA, amongst whom are great numbers of Negroes and other slaves.—

The taxables in 1773 were computed to amount to 64,000; the number of Negroes and Mulattoes about 10,000.—

Exchange with Great-Britain 175l. for 100l. sterling.

Legal interest 6 per cent. per ann. Bills returned protested subjected the drawers, &c. to 15 per cent. re-exchange, and 10 per cent.

interest.—The commerce of this country appears to have been neglected very much, on a comparison with that of South-Carolina. Its exports to Great-Britain, before the present troubles, fell short of 100,000l. per ann. and its imports scarce rose to more than 20,000l. Some trade, however, was carried on with the West Indies.

In the year 1770, the number of white inhabitants in Charles-town, SOUTH-CAROLINA, was 530;—the number of Negro and other slaves, 6276; free Negroes, Mulattoes, &c. 24. Exclusive of the above in

Charles-

Charles town, the Negro and other slaves amounted to 75,452; free Negroes, &c. 125. Great numbers have been since imported; and the whole number of Negroes, Mulattoes, &c. now in the province, is supposed to be 120,000. The total number of souls is estimated by the Congress at 225,000.

The trade of South-Carolina has had a surprising increase. In the year 1734, the annual value of the exports was calculated at little more than 100,000*l.* sterling; for some years past they have amounted to half a million sterling. Those to Great-Britain only (consisting of native commodities, for which the reader is referred to the Table subjoined), previous to the present ruinous interruption, were reckoned at 395,000*l.* and the imports in return from hence at 365,000*l.* The remainder goes chiefly to the West-Indies. Again, the number of vessels cleared out in Charles town, in 1734, was 209; in 1726, 217; in 1772, 431; and in 1773, 507. The exchange with Great-Britain was 700*l.* currency for 100*l.* sterling;—with Boston, 54*l.* 1*2s.* 4*d.* for 100*l.* lawful money;—with New-York, 400*l.* for 100*l.* New-York currency;—with Philadelphia, 433*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for 100*l.*

100l. Pennsylvania currency;—with Jamaica and Barbadoes, 500l. for 100l. currency of each of the said islands;—with Antigua, St. Christopher, Grenada, &c. 400l. for 100l. currency of each of the said islands.—Bills of exchange on Great-Britain, New-York, and Philadelphia, were usually drawn at 30 days sight: they were seldom drawn on any of the other provinces, or any of the West-India islands. When returned protested, the drawers, &c. were subjected to 15 per cent. re-exchange, and 8 per cent. interest.

The sums necessary for defraying the annual expences of government are raised by a poll-tax on slaves and free Negroes, a tax on land, value of town-lots and buildings, monies at interest or arising from annuities, stock in trade, and the profits of all faculties and professions, the clergy excepted, factorage and employment, and handicraft-trades;—which is called the general tax. In the law passed in 1768, to raise the sum of 105,773l. 9s. 6d. the proportions were as follow, being what are generally observed, viz. slaves and free Negroes the head, 12s. 6d.—lands the 100 acres, 12s. 6d.—town-lots and buildings, 6s. 3d. on every 100l. value;—monies at interest,

rest, 6s. 3d. the 100l.—annuities, 25s. on every 100l.—stock in trade, profits of faculties and professions, &c. 6s. 3d. on every 100l. The general tax collected in 1769 was 146,199l. 13s. 3d. and the last collected, viz. in 1771, was 102,111l. 13s. 11d.

The annual expences of government in 1767 amounted to 151,317l. 9s. 3d. and in 1768 to 104,440l. 19s. 3d. The stipends of the established clergy, parochial charges, &c. amounting to about 18,000l. per annum, are not included in the above sums, being charged to the general duty fund. The salary of the Chief Justice, Assistant Judges, and Attorney-General, now make an addition of 15,400l. per annum to the expences of government.

In 1772, the produce of the several country duties was 97,804l. 14s. 6d. but this was a larger sum than they had produced for some years preceding: the increase arose from the great number of Negroes imported in that year.

The amount of the poor-tax raised in Charles-town in 1769 was 7000l. the next year 8000l. and in the two succeeding years 9000l. each year. The poor-tax is raised in the same manner as the general tax.

Or



THIS tract was originally included in the grant of Carolina to the Lords Proprietors, but was re-united to the Crown by a purchase confirmed by act of Parliament in 1728, as before related. In 1732, several public-spirited noblemen and gentlemen, moved with the distresses of the poor, and meditating their relief, by employing such as were willing to labour in forming a new settlement in America, raised a considerable subscription, and obtained a charter from George II. for settling a certain portion of land (then a part of South-Carolina, but unoccupied) in America. It was called Georgia, from the name of his Majesty; and 10,000*l.* was added by Government to the subscription, for the promotion of the undertaking. The grantees were styled Trustees for establishing the colony of Georgia. The first embarkation consisted of 116 persons, of various occupations, under the conduct of General Oglethorpe; and, as more money was subscribed, others went over afterwards. By the year 1752 the colony had increased to upwards of 1000 persons; when,  
from

from some hardships they suffered under its proprietary government, dissensions of all sorts prevailed, which threatened the ruin of the settlement: the Trustees, therefore, surrendered their charter to the Crown; whereupon a patent passed the great seal to invest the King and his successors with all the properties, powers, and privileges, before granted to the body politic; and under the new (royal) government all grievances were redressed.

The progress of the trade of Georgia, since the above event, will appear from the following account of its exports during 23 years.

Year.	Vessels cleared.	Sterl. Value of Exports.	Year.	Vessels cleared.	Sterl. Value of Exports.
1750	8	£.2004	1762	57	£.27,021
1751	11	3810	1763	92	47,551
1752	17	4841	1764	115	55,025
1753	23	6403	1765	148	73,426
1754	42	9507	1766	154	81,228
1755	52	15,744	1767	154	67,092
1756	42	16,766	1768	186	92,284
1757	44	15,649	1769	181	86,480
1758	21	8613	1770	186	99,383
1759	48	12,694	1771	185	106,387
1760	37	20,852	1772	217	121,677
1761	45	15,870			

Of the exports in 1772, about 20,000l. was from Sunbury, and the rest from Savannah.

The

The number of white inhabitants is very uncertain. The number of Negro and other slaves (who were not allowed to be kept under the proprietary government) is supposed to be 14,000; that of free Negroes, Mulattoes, &c. very inconsiderable.

The sum granted in 1773, to defray the expences of government for the three preceding years, was 517*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; to raise which, every 100 acres of land, and every 18th slave, was taxed 2*s.* 6*d.*—goods imported, 7*s.* 6*d.* per cent.—which are the principal articles: other smaller articles were taxed in proportion.

Exchange with Great-Britain, 108*l.* currency for 100*l.* sterling. Bills returned protested subjected the drawers, &c. to 15 per cent. re-exchange, and 8 per cent. interest.

O F F L O R I D A.

THE Spaniards were the first Europeans who got footing in this country, and marked their entrance into it (as was their custom in America) with violence and slaughter, under the command of Ferdinand Soto, about the

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year

year 1514. According to their own historians, there was in his army a large greyhound, called *Brutus*, whose allowance was equal to that of an archer; for he did greater execution among the Indians than ten soldiers. At length, however, he was shot by the *infidels*, and his death caused a mourning throughout the army of the *Christians*. The territory, thus overrun, continued in the possession of the spoilers, without their making further settlements therein than seemed sufficient to exclude other nations, till the conclusion of the last war, in 1763, when they were obliged to cede it to the English. By the King's proclamation of the 7th of October, in the same year, it was divided into two colonies or governments, under the names of East and West Florida; and it is further specified, in the same proclamation, that "as soon as the state and circumstances of the said colonies will admit thereof," their respective Governors "shall summon and call General Assemblies within the said governments, in such manner and form as is used and directed in those colonies and provinces in America which are under" the King's "immediate government."

EAST.



EAST-FLORIDA, being a peninsula in a great measure surrounded by the sea, the air is consequently cooler, and the rains more frequent, than in the neighbouring parts of the continent. It contains 12 millions of acres, which is about the same quantity as Ireland; has many lakes and rivers abounding with fish; and is worn, at its southern extremity, by the action of the waters, into a number of islands, keys, banks, rocks, &c. As yet here are but a small number of planters; but their commerce is in a very promising state: in 1770, they received into their ports 50 sloops, and fitted out 52; and in 1772, they had exported 30,000 wt. of excellent indigo. Before the acquisition of this country, the English had no settlement which produced in any considerable quantity the barilla or kali plant, whereof are made pearl-ashes, that enter so much into the manufactures of glass, soap, &c. The Governor is assisted by a Council of nine persons, but no Assembly has yet been called.

WEST-FLORIDA is separated from the former division by the river Apalachicola; it is a long tract of upwards of 80 leagues, inclosing several French settlements ceded with the rest to Great-Britain at the last peace,  
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the people of which build a few ships, and cultivate rice, cotton, and indigo: the cotton has only the fault of being too short; the indigo is more brilliant than that of St. Domingo. The inhabitants, in general, amount to about 6000; but they increase rapidly, especially towards the Mississippi, where the planters are attracted by the beauty of the country, the purity of the air, and the neighbourhood of the Spaniards, who are now in possession of Louisiana. Their trade, at present, seems confined to furs, which they get from the Indians in vast abundance, and wood for building, dying, &c. In 1768, their exports amounted to 10,495*l.*; the year following, to 10,806*l.*; and, in 1770, 30 vessels entered their ports, and they fitted out 41. The affairs of this colony are at present administered by a Governor and 12 Counsellors. It was divided into two counties; but this law was repealed by the King:—and country-duties were imposed, which were likewise repealed.

The charges of both governments are defrayed by the mother-country, with whom exchange is at par. Protested bills subject the drawers to 1*5*l. per cent. re-exchange, and 8 per cent. interest.







*Climate, Soil, Productions, and different Kinds of Animals, &c.*

East-Florida, tho' the Southernmost of the British N. America colonies, is rendered mild by the frequent rains and fresh breeze from the sea. The soil, except in the middle, is very low. Among the trees and shrubs, for building or furniture, are, the different pines, spruce-fir, ever-green oak, chestnut-oak, mahogany, several species of walnut-tree, maple, ash, &c. and mulberry-trees in great luxuriance, larger than in any other part of America:—figs, here, are, sultia, brazil-tree, logwood, &c.—for physic, Sassafras and Tolu trees:—for gardens, the magnolia, tulip-laur, poplar-tree, &c.—besides the myrtle-wax-shrub, fennel-shrub, punkin or cochinal fig-tree. The greatest part of American figs are found also in East-Florida; and almost all those of Europe, particularly oranges and lemons, succeed in it to admiration. The maize, which is a grand natural production, here are two harvests in a year; and the shores and overflowed lands are covered with the giant barilla or kali, of which the Spaniards make pearl-ashes. The climate of West-Florida, near the sea, is very hot, dry, and unhealthy; but, in the island parts, perfectly wholesome. The shores abound with pearl-oysters; and the strands, which make up a great depth, with ambergris, and a kind of pitch brought by the winds. In the high grounds are mines of copper, iron, lead, and coal; and orpiment and sandarac in various parts.